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ANNUAL REPORT

ON

LABOUR IMMIGRATION INTO ASSAM

FOR THE

Year 1889.

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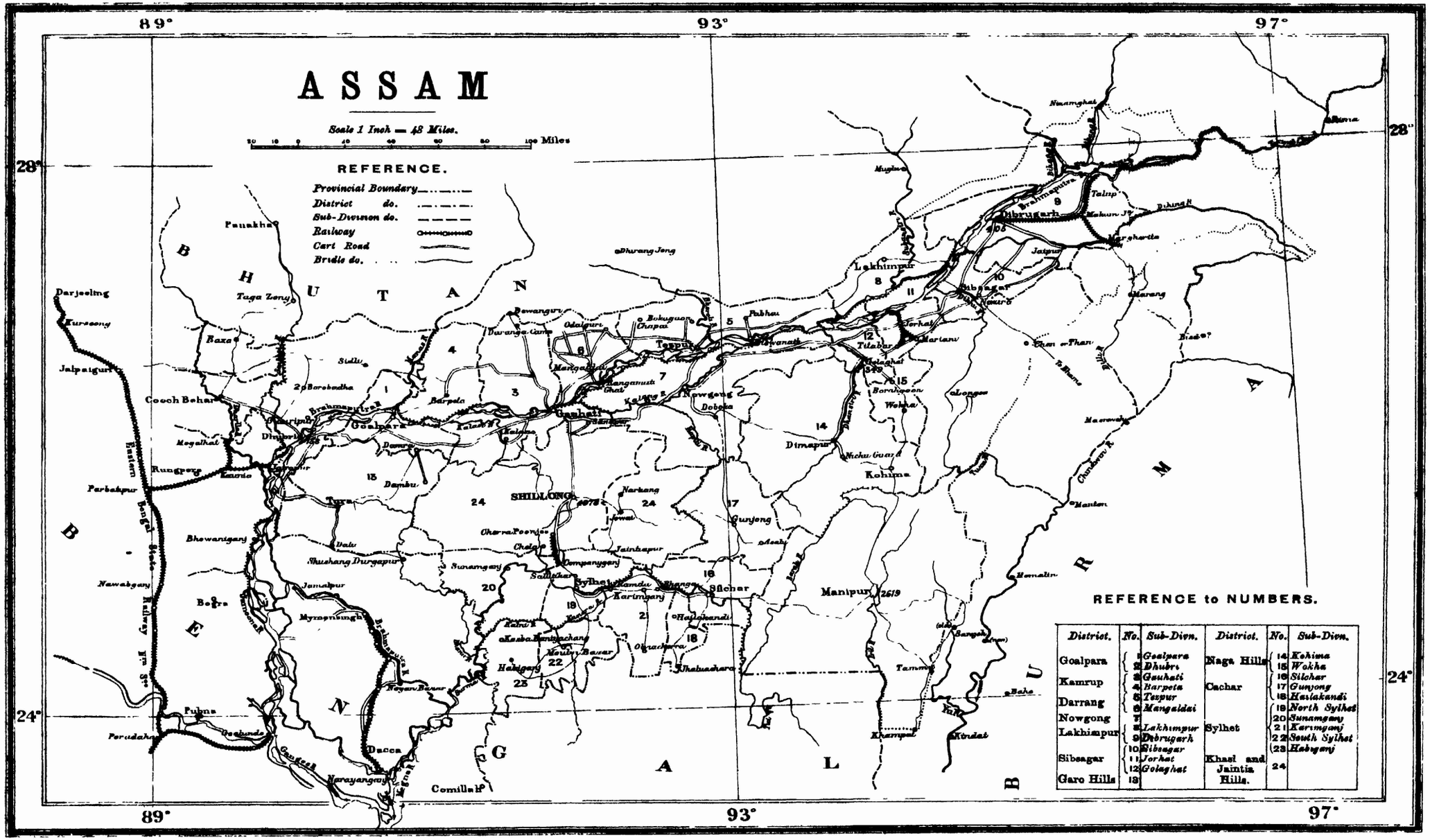
TABLE OF CONTENTS.

	Para.	Page.
CHAPTER I.—Immigration.		
Introductory remarks	1	1
Provincial figures	2	*ib.*
District and valley statistics ...	3	*ib.*
Nationality of immigrants ...	4	2
Female immigrants	5	3
Contractors' and sardári labourers ...	6	4
Cost of importation ...	7	*ib.*
Transit of immigrants to the Assam Valley	8	*ib.*
Ditto ditto Surma Valley	9	5
Debarkation depôts	10	*ib.*
Mortality at Dhubri and during transit on Brahmaputra	11	6
Mortality during transit to the Surma Valley districts	12	7
Cases of kidnapping and enticement ...	13	*ib.*
CHAPTER II.—Labour Force.		
Statistics of the labour force ...	14	9
Mean strength of the labour force ...	15	*ib.*
District figures of the labour force ...	16	10
Nationality of the adult labour force ...	17	*ib.*
Mean strength in each district ...	18	11
CHAPTER III.—Contracts and Wages.		
Number of contracts made ...	19	11
Nationality of labourers making local contracts	20	12
Details of local contracts	21	13
Verification of contracts	22	14
Expiry and cancelment of contracts ...	23	15
Extent to which the second paragraph of Sections 121 and 170 of Act I. of 1882 are acted upon	24	16
Repatriation of labourers	25	*ib.*
Wages	26	*ib.*
CHAPTER IV.—Offences, including desertions.		
Offences committed by tea-garden population	27	18
Provincial and district figures for desertions	28	21
Arrests and convictions	29	22
Nationality and sex of deserters ...	30	*ib.*
CHAPTER V.—Vital Statistics and Health of Garden Population.		
Birth-rate	31	23
Birth-rate according to nationality ...	32	*ib.*
Death-rate for the year	33	24
Ditto among adults	34	25
Causes of deaths among Act coolies ...	35	*ib.*
Ditto ditto non-Act coolies ...	36	26
Death-rate among children ...	37	27
Order of demérit as regards death-rate..	38	*ib.*
Mortality according to the country of origin	39	28
Proportion of unhealthy gardens in each district	40	*ib.*
Unhealthy gardens in Cachar ...	41	29
Ditto ditto Sylhet ...	42	32
Ditto ditto Kámrúp ...	43	34
Ditto ditto Darrang ...	44	*ib.*
Ditto ditto Nowgong ...	45	38
Ditto ditto Sibságar ...	46	40
Ditto ditto Lakhimpur ...	47	46
General remarks on unhealthy-gardens.	48	48
CHAPTER VI.—Inspection.		
Number of gardens submitting returns	49	49
Classification of gardens according to the labourers employed, and inspection of Act and non-Act gardens...	50	*ib.*
CHAPTER VII.—Working of the System generally—		
Relation between employers and labourers	51	50
Relation between the tea-garden population and the villagers	52	51
General condition of labourers ...	53	*ib.*
Settlement of time-expired garden labourers on the land	54	*ib.*
Inland Labour Transport Fund ...	55	52
STATEMENT.		
Return showing the statistics of the labour force of the tea-gardens in the Province during 1889 ...		54-55



REFERENCE to NUMBERS.

District.	No.	Sub-Divn.	District.	No.	Sub-Divn.
Goalpara	1	Goalpara	Naga Hills	14	Kohima
	2	Dhubri		15	Wokha
Kamrup	3	Gauhati	Cachar	16	Silchar
	4	Barpeta		17	Gunjong
Darrang	5	Tezpur		18	Hailakandi
	6	Mangaldai	Sylhet	19	North Sylhet
Nowgong	7			20	Sunamganj
Lakhimpur	8	Lakhimpur		21	Karimganj
	9	Dibrugarh		22	South Sylhet
Sibsagar	10	Sibsagar		23	Habiganj
	11	Jorhat	Khasi and Jaintia Hills.	24	
	12	Golaghat			
Garo Hills	13				

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REPORT ON LABOUR IMMIGRATION INTO ASSAM FOR THE YEAR 1889.

CHAPTER I.

IMMIGRATION.

1. IN the present report the Chief Commissioner does not consider it necessary again to go over the ground traversed in the special triennial report on the working of Act I. of 1882, which has lately been submitted to the Government of India, and therefore abstains from doing more than reviewing the statistics of the year's immigration, noticing any remarkable variations which they may exhibit, and making such remarks as may be necessary by way of explanation.

Provincial figures.

2. The following table compares the immigration of all classes of labourers into the Province during the past two years :—

	1888.	1889.	Increase or decrease.	Percentage of increase or decrease.
Act ... . { Sardári adults	12,436	15,277	+2,841	+22·8
Act ... . { Contractors' adults	10,165	9,522	— 643	— 6·3
Non-Act .....Adults	10,716	12,749	+2,033	+18·9
Total.....	33,317	37,548	+4,231	+12·6
Children	12,976	18,110	+5,134	+39·5
Grand Total, including children....	46,293	55,658	+9,365	+20·2

There was thus an increase under each class of labour with the exception of contractors' adults. The expansion of the sardári system of recruitment, and the larger number of children imported are noteworthy, and point to the extension of the system of family recruitment, which is one of the most encouraging features in the year's immigration. The result for the Province as a whole is an increase of 20 2 per cent. which, as was the case last year, is largely due to the much larger number of children brought up. Mr. Quinton views with satisfaction the decreased number of contractors' adults imported. The statistics of the year support the view often expressed on previous occasions, that contractors' coolies are, as a rule, of poorer physique and less suitable for tea-garden work than coolies recruited by sardárs.

District and Valley statistics.

3. The following table gives the statistics of importations for each district of the Province separately:—

District.	Act adults.			Non-Act adults.			Total of Act and non-Act adults.			Children.			Grand total, including children.		
	1888.	1889.	Percentage of increase or decrease.	1888.	1889.	Percentage of increase or decrease.	1888.	1889.	Percentage of increase or decrease.	1888.	1889.	Percentage of increase or decrease.	1888.	1889.	Percentage of increase or decrease.
Cachar	2,515	2,450	—2·58	2,381	3,227	+35·53	4,896	5,677	+15·95	963	1,385	+43·82	5,859	7,062	+20·53
Sylhet	984	1,193	+21·23	5,585	5,886	+5·38	6,572	7,079	+7·71	3,023	4,955	+63·91	9,595	12,034	+25·41
Total Surma Valley	3,499	3,643	+4·11	7,969	9,113	+14·35	11,468	12,756	+11·23	3,986	6,340	+59 05	15,454	19,096	+23·56
Kámrúp	184	286	+85·71	16	32	+100 0	170	318	+87·05	107	191	+78·50	277	509	+83 75
Darrang	4,129	3,775	—8·57	469	356	—21·09	4,598	4,131	—10·15	1,606	2,033	+26·48	6,206	6,164	—·67
Nowgong	994	1,425	+43·36	488	651	+12·90	1,482	1,076	+33·23	475	741	+56·00	1,957	2,717	+38·83
Sibságar	6,812	7,210	+5·84	568	869	+52·99	7,380	8,079	+9·47	3,504	4,378	+24·94	10,884	12,457	+14·45
Lakhimpur	7,013	8,460	+20 68	1,206	1,828	+51·57	8,219	10,288	+25·17	3,296	4,427	+34·31	11,515	14.715	+27 78
Total Assam Valley	19,109	21,156	+10 75	2,747	3,736	+32·36	21,849	24,792	+13·46	8,990	11,770	+30·92	30,839	36,562	+18·55
Grand Total..	22,601	24,799	+9·72	10,716	12,749	+18·97	33,317	37,548	+12·69	12,976	18,110	+39·56	46,293	55,658	+20·22

The increase, which is under both Act and non-Act importations, was general to all districts, with the exception of Cachar, where there was a slight falling off under the head of Act adults, and Darrang, where there was a falling off both under Act adults and non-Act adults. There was a considerable increase in Act importations in the districts of Sylhet, Nowgong (sardári), and Lakhimpur (contractors'), while Cachar, Sibságar, and Lakhimpur show the largest increase in non-Act adult importation. A large proportionate increase occurred under both Act and non-Act importations in the Kámrúp district, but

the labour force employed in that district is inconsiderable. It is satisfactory to note that every district shows an increase in the number of children imported. In the South Sylhet sub-division they have more than doubled, as compared with 1888. The largest total importation took place into the districts of Sylhet, Sibságar, and Lakhimpur.

The Deputy-Commissioner of Sylhet remarks:—

"The increase would appear to be due to a perception of the advantage of a strong labour force which can overtake all the work without pressure, and not in any way to extensions."

The Deputy-Commissioner of Lakhimpur attributes the increased importations to "the development of the tea industry, both as regards extension of area as well as higher cultivation." The Deputy-Commissioner of Sibságar gives a similar reason for the increase in that district In both these districts there was a satisfactory increase in non-Act importations. Free immigration also increased in the Nowgong district, and the Commissioner of the Assam Valley Districts considers this "the most encouraging feature" he has noticed for many years. The free immigration into the Sylhet district far exceeded that into the whole of the Assam Valley, while the Cachar figures are not far behind. The nature of this free immigration has been fully discussed in the special report. The Deputy-Commissioner of Cachar writes :—

"Immigration under the Act continues to decrease. Coolies who are put under the Act in the district of recruitment are, for various reasons, more expensive than those who travel up as free labourers. Sardári recruitment is practically a dead letter, and the coolies are all, whether classed as sardári or Act or non-Act labourers, supplied by the coolie agency houses, who arrange for their food, lodging, and carriage, and deliver them on the garden."

4. The following tabular statement distributes the adult immigrants according to their sex between the various recruiting districts : —

Nationality of immigrants

Nationality of immigrants.	Act.				Non-Act		Total	
	Garden sardárs.		Contractors.					
	1888.	1889.	1888.	1889.	1888	1889	1888.	1889.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Bengal ..... Men	801	813	765	765	719	1,161	2,285	2,739
Women	636	750	770	793	717	1,052	2,123	2,595
Total	1,437	1,563	1,535	1,558	1,436	2,215	4,408	5,334
North-Western Provinces, Oudh, and Behar. Men	979	1,098	446	512	3,295	2,894	4,720	4,504
Women	777	884	357	415	2,141	2,057	3,275	3,356
Total	1,756	1,982	803	927	5,436	4,951	7,995	7,860
Chota Nagpur ..... Men	5,109	6,219	4,236	3,609	1,852	2,193	11,197	12,021
Women	4,097	5,374	3,565	3,382	1,393	2,100	9,055	10,856
Total	9,206	11,593	7,801	6,991	3,245	4,293	20,252	22,877
Nepal ..... Men	.....	.....	.....	.....	7	8	7	8
Women	6	3	.....	4	9	4	15	11
Total	6	3	.....	4	16	12	22	19
Madras ..... Men	14	75	21	11	141	276	176	362
Women	8	61	5	9	96	257	109	327
Total	22	136	26	20	237	533	285	689
Bombay ..... Men	1	.....	.....	.....	3	.....	4	.....
Women	.....	.....	.....	.....	3	.....	3	.....
Total	1	.....	.....	.....	6	.....	7	.....
Assam ..... Men	5	.....	.....	22	308	650	313	672
Women	3	.....	.....	.....	32	59	35	59
Total	8	.....	.....	22	340	709	348	731
Orissa ..... Men	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	19	.....	19
Women	.....	.....	.....	.....	...	19	.....	19
Total	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	38	.....	38
Total ..... Men	6,909	8,205	5,468	4,919	6,325	7,201	18,702	20,325
Women	5,627	7,072	4,697	4,603	4,391	5,548	14,615	17,223
Grand Total	12,436	15,277	10,165	9,522	10,716	12,749	33 317	37,548

The largest increase took place among coolies from Chota Nagpur, who constitute more than half of the total number of importations during the year. There was a small decrease in the number recruited from the North-Western Provinces, Oudh, and Behar, while the number who came from Bengal and from the Madras Presidency shows a considerable increase as compared with the preceding year. Act importations were chiefly from Chota Nagpur, while the greater number imported otherwise than under the Act came from the North-Western Provinces, Oudh, and Behar. The following tables show the relative order in which each locality of recruitment stands in respect of Act and non-Act importations :—

(*a*)—*Act Importations.*

Locality of recruitment.	Recruited by		Total number of labourers imported during 1889.
	Garden sardárs.	Contractors.	
(1) Chota Nagpur	11,593	6,991	18,584
(2) Bengal	1,563	1,558	3,121
(3) North-Western Provinces, Oudh, and Behar.	1,982	927	2,909

(*b*)—*Non-Act Importations.*

	Number of labourers imported.
(1) North-Western Provinces, Oudh, and Behar ...	4,951
(2) Chota Nagpur	4,293
(3) Bengal...	2,213

Chota Nagpur still continues to constitute the chief field for sardári recruitment, and follows very closely the North-Western Provinces, Oudh, and Behar in regard to non-Act emigration. As usual, the majority of the non-Act North-Western coolies were recruited for the Sylhet district. In the same district the number of Madras coolies is rapidly increasing, and coolies of this class are also reported to be growing in favour in Cachar.

Female immigrants.

5. The proportion of women amongst adult immigrants from the chief districts of recruitment is given below:—

Locality of recruitment.	Percentage of women to men among							
	Sardári immigrants.		Contractors' immigrants.		Non-Act immigrants.		All adult immigrants.	
	1888	1889.	1888.	1889.	1888.	1889.	1888.	1889.
Bengal	44·2	47·9	50 1	50·9	49·9	47·5	48·1	48·6
North Western Provinces, Oudh, and Behar.	44·2	44·6	44·4	44·7	39·3	41·5	40·9	42·6
Chota Nagpur	44·5	46·3	45·6	48·3	42·9	48·9	44·7	47·4
Total	44·4	46·2	46·2	48·3	42·0	43·5	44·2	45·8

The increase in the percentage of women amongst the Chota Nagpur coolies is extremely satisfactory in view of the position which Chota Nagpur holds as the chief recruiting ground for the Province. The tendency noticed in last year's report to import a larger proportion of women has been maintained, and is chiefly noticeable in Act importations, where it is probably due to the extension of the sardári system of recruitment. The proportion among non-Act immigrants is not so satisfactory, but is natural, having regard to the fact that a large number come from the North-Western Provinces, the most distant recruiting ground.

Contractors' and sardári labourers.

6. The following table gives the number of Act coolies imported during the past two years into each district, and shows the average number of coolies imported by each sardár :—

District.	Sardári coolies.		Number of certificates granted to garden-sardárs.	Average recruits per sardár.	Contractors' coolies.		Percentage of increase or decrease of importations during 1889 as compared with 1888.	
	1888.	1889.	1889.	1889.	1888.	1889.	Sardári.	Contractors'.
Cachar	1,831	1,809	576	3·1	684	641	−1·2	−6·2
Sylhet	910	1,142	287	3·9	74	51	+25·4	−31·0
Total of Surma Valley...	2,741	2,951	863	3·4	758	692	+7·6	−8·7
Kámrúp	154	281	43	6·5	...	5	+82·4	+100 0
Darrang	2,213	2,643	771	3·4	1,916	1,132	+19·4	−40·9
Nowgong	238	929	256	3·6	756	496	+290·3	−34·3
Sibságar	3,530	4,328	1,052	4·1	3,282	2,882	+22 6	−12·1
Lakhimpur	3,560	4,145	687	6·0	3,453	4,315	+16·4	+24·9
Total of Assam Valley...	9,695	12,326	2,809	4·3	9,407	8,830	+27·1	−6·1
Grand Total	12,436	15,277	3,672	4·1	10,165	9,522	+22·8	−6·3

It is worthy of note that while the extension of sardári recruitment was general in all districts with the single exception of Cachar, where the decrease was insignificant, there was a remarkable falling off in the extent to which contractors were resorted to. Had it not been for the considerable increase in the Lakhimpur district, where special circumstances render recourse to contractors more necessary than elsewhere, the decrease would have been still more marked. The increase in the Lakhimpur district is the more strange, as no such tendency was shown in the preceding year, and it may possibly be due to some error in classification by which coolies who executed contracts at Dhubri may have been treated as contractors' coolies. Further enquiries will be made into this point. The percentage of increase in sardári importations was much more considerable in the Assam Valley than in the Surma Valley, where, however, the system of free recruiting is more extensively used The number of certificates granted to garden-sardárs rose from 2,789 in 1888 to 3,672 during the year under report, the largest increase being in the Darrang district. It is satisfactory to note that 1,169 certificates provided for the medical examination of labourers prior to engagement, the greatest number of such certificates (451) being reported in Lakhimpur. The Deputy-Commissioner of Nowgong summarises the following as the causes which operate to favour the sardári system of recruitment :—

"(*a*) Most of the planters find the sardári system the least expensive.
"(*b*) The coolies brought up by sardárs have been found to be superior in physique and other respects.
"(*c*) Sardárs generally try to bring up such coolies as have families, in order to lessen the chance of desertion.
"(*d*) The sardárs also bring up their own relatives and friends, who are more trustworthy than other coolies."

Cost of importation

7. There is no information beyond that given in the previous provincial reports to be recorded under this head. The cost of importation is lowest for North-Western Provinces coolies imported under the free system in Sylhet, where it is as small as Rs. 17 per head, and highest for contractors' coolies, who sometimes cost as much as Rs. 120 per head. The average price of a sardár's coolie varies from about Rs. 38 to Rs. 60, but the actual cost must naturally depend to some extent on the position of the several districts and gardens, and also, no doubt, on the nature of the arrangements made by managers. This question was fully discussed in the special report, and it seems unnecessary to deal with it here in the same detail as has been done in previous years.

Transit of immigrants to the Assam Valley.

8. During the year under report 34,507 immigrants started from the recruiting districts for Dhubri, against 31,294 in the previous year, showing a considerable increase of 3,213. The increase is probably due to an unusual demand for labourers, consequent on recruiting having been temporarily stopped, owing to the prevalence of cholera, in the Manbhum and Raniganj districts by a notification issued by the Bengal Government in the month of April 1888, The casualties *en route* were more numerous (165 against 87 in 1888).

These include 93 deaths (against 21 in 1888), which were in a great measure due to the prevalence of cholera in the recruiting districts. No less than 29,426 coolies came up to Dhubri free, of whom 493 passed as free immigrants; and of the balance, 17,993 persons were put under contract and 10,935 were passed as dependents attached to them. Of the 17,493 contracts executed, 17,203 were for a period of five years. Of the total number of arrivals at Dhubri, 3,122, against 322 in 1888, came by steamer *viâ* Goalundo, the rest having come by the railway route *viâ* Kaunia and Jatrapur. In this connection the Commissioner of the Assam Valley Districts writes—

"I have had occasion in previous years to criticise the treatment of the immigrants on the journey from Raniganj to Dhubri I travelled up from Calcutta early in March last, and am of opinion that the immigrants are now better looked after than they were on this part of the journey. But I am inclined to agree with the Deputy-Commissioner that the Goalundo route is the best."

Eighteen thousand four hundred and fifty-five immigrants were examined by the Civil Surgeon before being put under local contracts, and 1,229 were rejected, of whom 558 were sent as dependents and 464 as free by the depôt managers, and 207 were returned to their homes.

Transit of immigrants to the Surma Valley.

9. The information under this head is derived almost entirely from the returns supplied by the garden managers. Independently of these, no accurate information can be obtained, for very few of the immigrants make use of the depôts, the majority marching straight to the gardens. From the figures supplied by garden managers, it appears that 19,096 immigrants came to the Surma Valley, a large number of whom were free.

The daily steamer service is becoming more popular, and the Deputy-Commissioner of Sylhet, who has obtained figures from the Agent of the India General Steam Navigation Company at Fenchuganj, reports "that 6,757 coolies, or 56·14 per cent. of the total number imported, came to this district by steamer." These figures do not include disembarkations at Chhátak. The mortality among these coolies on the steamers was extremely small, there having been only 7 deaths in all. From the records kept in the depôts and the way-bills of coolies, it appears that out of 4,414 coolies who left Goalundo for the tea-gardens in the Sylhet district, 59 died in transit. There are no statistics to show the extent to which coolies imported for Cachar gardens used the steamer service, but the Deputy-Commissioner states that managers now see the advantage of using the steamers during the months when they run directly to Cachar. Among the 3,316 Cachar coolies who left Goalundo for Cachar gardens, no less than 196, or 59·1 per mille, died *en route*. Cholera was very fatal at the beginning of the year, especially between Narainganj and Karimganj.

The Deputy-Commissioner of Sylhet writes—"There can be no doubt that Act I. (B.C.) of 1889 and the rules framed thereunder have most materially decreased the mortality among immigrants." The Chief Commissioner concurs in this opinion, and the question of framing rules under the Act (which has been extended to Assam) is now under consideration.

Debarkation depôts.

10. The following table shows the extent to which debarkation depôts were used during the year under report :—

District.	Number of depôts.	Total number of immigrants to district.	Number that passed through depôts.	Number detained at depôts.			Contracts cancelled at depôts.	Expenditure.	
				Through want of a guide.	In hospital.	For segregation.		Buildings.	Establishments, &c.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
								Rs. As. P.	Rs. As. P.
Cachar	2	7,062	3,142	.....	191	...	1	549 14 0	4,094 11 5
Sylhet	5	12,034	3,892	... ..	47	83	... ..	121 11 3	1,235 12 4
Kámrúp	...	.....	.....	.....	.....	...	.....	.....	.....
Darrang	1	6,164	5,907	3,524	77	347	.....	279 14 9	1,724 14 3
Nowgong	1	2,717	2,346	553	.....	70	.....	40 0 0	1,209 5 11
Sibságar	3	12,457	9,892	3,875	130	818	.....	600 0 0	2,331 13 5
Lakhimpur	1	14,715	10,981	7,347	121	39	.....	354 0 0	1,687 6 3
Total	13	55,149	36,160	15,299	566	1,357	1	1,945 8 0	12,283 15 7
Total for 1888 ...	12	46,016	31,884	15,617	703	273	3	1,996 13 3	10,865 8 8

There has been an increase of one depôt (Karimganj) in the Sylhet district, but comparatively few coolies make use of the depôts in that district. The number of immigrants who passed through the various depôts increased from 5,505 in 1888 to 7,031 in the Surma Valley, and from 26,379 to 29,126 in the Brahmaputra Valley. The number of persons detained for want of a guide is still very high, and the Chief Commissioner would draw the attention of employers of labour to the risk which such detention must necessarily involve. In the Lakhimpur district, where the number was extremely high, it is explained that the detention is due to the fact of the coolies arriving in the afternoon and having to wait until next morning for the train (that is, in the case of coolies going to distant gardens on the line), and that the number of cases in which coolies are detained a second day is very small. Cholera accounted for the greater number of coolies detained for segregation.

The depôts were sufficiently inspected by district officers; the Commissioner of the Assam Valley Districts also inspected those in his division, while many were inspected by the Deputy-Surgeon-General.

Mortality at Dhubri and during transit on Brahmaputra.

11. Thirty-three thousand eight hundred and seventy-two immigrants were despatched from Dhubri to the several labour districts, of whom 111 died on board the steamers *en route*, the deaths being due chiefly to cholera; besides these, 1,763 immigrants were shipped at Goalundo for gardens in the Assam Valley. These last do not land at Dhubri, but are inspected by the Civil Surgeon. Cholera was very prevalent, especially in the month of March, when a serious outbreak took place The most disastrous voyage was that of the steamer *Brahman*, which left Dhubri with 243 immigrants on the 12th March. Twelve deaths occurred from cholera between Dhubri and Gauháti and four at Tezpur, where all the coolies were landed, and further casualties were prevented by the prompt action of the Deputy-Commissioner. On this subject the Deputy-Commissioner, Darrang, reports:—

"I had the steamer taken to a *char* opposite Tezpur, on which a cholera-shed had been built, landed all the coolies, 198 in number, and had new huts erected for their accommodation. I also had provisions and medical comforts put on shore. The cholera was of a most virulent type Seventy-six persons were attacked on the 15th, of whom 16 died; on the 16th 13 new cases occurred, and the deaths on this day amounted to 21; on the 17th there were 6 new cases and 12 deaths; on the 18th 4 new cases and 8 deaths; on the 20th one new case and 4 deaths; and on the 21st no new cases and only one death."

Eventually the survivors who were fit to travel (113 coolies) were forwarded in a special steamer, special notifications being sent to the places at which the coolies had to be landed. The facts of this lamentable case were fully enquired into at the time by Sir Dennis Fitzpatrick, and led to the issue of the orders which are noticed in paragraph 67 of the special report.

The total casualties on the journey within the Province were as follows;—

	Number of deaths.		
	From cholera.	From other causes.	Total. 1889.
At Dhubri	135	17	152
On board the steamers	90	21	111
At ports of debarkation—			
Gauháti	.....	.....	.....
Tezpur	96	1	97
Silghát	9	2	11
Kokilamukh	21	7	28
Disangmukh	9	9	18
Nigriting	8	.....	8
Mohanamukh	6	.....	6
Total	374	57	431
Total for 1888	771	67	838

The number of deaths at Dhubri and on board the steamers was much smaller than during the previous year, while no deaths are said to have occurred at Gauhâti against 148 deaths in 1888.

The onerous duties in connection with immigration at Dhubri have been performed with care and energy both by the Deputy-Commissioner and the Civil Surgeon, to which officers the thanks of the Chief Commissioner are due.

Mortality during transit to the Surma Valley districts

12. The mortality amongst immigrants during transit to Sylhet and Cachar cannot be stated, as only a few immigrants passed through the depôts, and way-bills are not prescribed in the case of free immigrants. The following figures, given by the Deputy-Commissioners of Sylhet and Cachar, refer only to coolies who passed through the depôts :—

District	Year.	Number of immigrants who left Goalundo.	Deaths.			
			En route.	In hospital.	Total.	Proportion per mille.
Cachar	1889	3,316	124	72	196	59·1
	1888	3,246	99	40	139	42 8
Sylhet	1889	4,414	59	...	59	13 3
	1888	2,537	21	9	30	11·8

The Chief Commissioner regrets to notice the very considerable increase in the mortality, but has no comments to make on the figures beyond those already made in paragraph 9.

Cases of kidnapping and enticement.

13. The Chief Commissioner has no special remarks to make on the subject of cases of kidnapping or fraudulent enticement beyond what has been said in previous provincial reports and in the special report, where the matter has been very fully dealt with. Mr. Quinton accordingly contents himself with merely summarizing the cases reported by each district officer, and assuring the Government of India that cases of this nature continue to be most carefully enquired into.

In regard to Dhubri the Deputy-Commissioner of Goálpára writes—

"In paragraph 15 of my report for 1888 I divided enquiries relating to fraudulent or forcible recruitment into three classes.

"Forty-seven enquiries of first description were made in 1889, against 42 in 1888, in consequence of communications from Government officers or relatives of the persons concerned. Only five cases were instituted in consequence of these enquiries, of which three were found false ; in the remaining two cases, two persons were convicted by the courts of first instance, but the appellate court released the accused in one case, and reduced the sentence in the other.

"Twenty-two persons complained directly to the registering officer. In every instance their statements were recorded and sent to the magistrate of the district of recruitment, and the persons concerned were forwarded to him with a view to get enquiries made into their cases ; but no case was instituted by any of these persons. It is most probable that the statements on which action was taken were entirely false, and were made up by the coolies in order to secure a return to their homes.

"Six persons complained of having been fraudulently recruited after leaving Dhubri, of whom three were returned to their homes. Conviction was obtained in the case of one of these persons. In another of the cases proceedings were commenced by me, but the accused could not be arrested, and the case had to be abandoned.

"There were 97 enquiries made by the registering officer *suo-motu* on suspicion of enticement or fraudulent recruitment, but in 51 cases the women could not be traced. False names and addresses are commonly given by the coolies, in order perhaps to baffle enquiry.

"In 32 cases the women about whom enquiry was made were identified in the recruiting districts, and in 29 of these cases enticement of fraudulent recruitment was alleged to have taken place, but no action was taken by any of their relatives to get them back. In three cases it appeared that the coolies had emigrated with the consent of their relatives, and that there was no enticement or fraud in the matter. It is perhaps scarcely to be expected that the relatives will redeem the contracts, even if the coolie were willing to have her contract redeemed, or that a successful prosecution can be undertaken against the recruiters ; still it is good that a woman's relations should know where she is, and that they should have the chance of taking action if they like. Enquiries regarding 11 persons are still pending."

In Cachar, in addition to the cases mentioned in the special report, it is only necessary to refer to one case, in which a woman represented that she had been abducted from her home. Enquiries were instituted, but without result. The woman's contract was cancelled under Section 111 of the Act. The Deputy-Commissioner of Sylhet reports that no case of kidnapping or enticement was brought to his notice during the year under report. Two cases are reported from Kámrúp, in which women alleged that they had been fraudulently enticed from their homes. One of these women was transmitted to her home, and the other was returned to Dhubri, in order that enquiries might be made. The result of these enquiries is not known, but the case is presumably included amongst those referred to in the extract given above from the report of the Deputy-Commissioner of Goálpára. The Deputy Commissioner of Darrang reports two cases, both relating to women alleged to have been fraudulently enticed from their homes. One of these women was returned to Dhubri, and the case is presumably included in the extract just referred to. In the second case complaint was laid by the woman's relatives at Hazaribagh, but the woman alleged that her husband had deserted her in her own country, that she had left her home of her own free will, and that she had married another man, with whom she desired to remain. Of the two cases reported from Nowgong, one is of a very ordinary type. A young girl, alleged by her father to have been kidnapped, ran away from her home with her lover. He, however, deserted her, and she proceeded with other coolies and voluntarily took an agreement. The second case was that of a young man, apparently of respectable origin, who alleged that he had been induced to engage on the understanding that he would get clerk's work. The manager of the garden gave up all claims to the man's services The Deputy-Commissioner reports, however, that in his opinion the youth did voluntarily enter into the contract at Dhubri; he probably considered it a mere formality, and did not pay attention to the terms of the agreement. Only three cases are reported from the Sibságar district, against nine in the previous year. The four cases pending last year (*vide* paragraph 13 of last year's Provincial Report) ended in two being found false, in the accused in the third case being discharged, while the fourth was dropped. The following are the particulars of the three cases reported as having occurred during the year:—

(1) A woman (Jasodia) was said to have been kidnapped from the Bhagalpur district. She was traced to a garden, and stated to the Deputy-Commissioner that she and her sister had left home willingly, owing to her husband's desertion. Two persons were tried at Bhagulpur for kidnapping this woman, but were discharged.

(2) A man of Bankura complained that his wife had been enticed. She, however, stated that her husband had ill-treated her, that she had left her home willingly, and that she is now living as the wife of another man.

(3) A Sonthal woman alleged that she had been induced to leave her home by deceitful means. She was forwarded to the Deputy-Commissioner, Sonthal Parganas, with a view to enable her to give evidence in the criminal case which is still pending.

The Deputy-Commissioner of Lakhimpur reports 12 cases, 9 of which related to women, two of kidnapping of two boys, while one referred to the abduction of a batch of three coolies. Of the cases relating to women, which were all of the ordinary type, two were found to be false, and in one case the accused were discharged after trial. Another case was reported by the Deputy-Commissioner of Manbhum to disclose no criminal offence; one woman alleged to have been enticed could not be found, and a second absconded from the depôt. In one case the woman alleged to have been abducted denied having been brought up against her will. The result of the other cases is not at present known. The two cases relating to the kidnapping of boys are pending at Manbhum. One of the boys was sent up by a contractor, and is reported to be under 16 years of age. In the second case the boy was also a minor, and has been sent to Manbhum as a witness. The case regarding the abduction of three coolies was allowed to drop by Mr. Driberg, the late Deputy-Commissioner, as the place of residence of the complainants could not be traced, and the Assistant-Commissioner who recorded the statements of the coolies did not believe them to be true. The Deputy-Commissioner writes—

"From the figures given for the year under report, it appears that very few cases of fraudulent recruiting were discovered, and, with the ever-increasing facilities for reporting and checking such offences, I think that these cases will gradually become less"

The number of cases brought to light during the year in the Surma and Assam Valleys respectively bears a percentage of only 17 and 1·63 to the total number of immigrants.

CHAPTER II.—Labour Force.

Statistics of the labour force.

14. The table below shows the additions to, and deductions from, the total labour force of the Province during the year 1889:—

Labour force remaining at the end of the year 1888 (column 2 of statement).		354,266
Additions—		
Imported by contractors or garden-sardárs, including free labourers and dependents imported direct (columns 3, 4, and 5 of statement).	55,658	
Local labour contracts entered into under Sections 111 and 112 of Act I. of 1882 (columns 6 and 7 of statement).	18,392	
Received from other gardens (column 8 of statement)	5,292	
Deserters re-captured (column 9 of statement)	524	
Remaining after expiry of contract (column 10 of statement).	16,866	
Otherwise obtained (column 11 of statement)	23,701	
Births (column 12 of statement)	11,317	
Total	———	131,750
Deductions—		
Transferred to other gardens (column 16 of statement)	3,286	
Left with permission or on expiry of contract (columns 17 and 27 of statement).	55,036	
Deaths (column 18 of statement).	16,212	
Desertions (column 19 of statement)	12,504	
Free labourers put under contract (columns 21 and 22 of statement).	7,714	
Contracts cancelled under Sections 111, 140, or 177 Act I. of 1882 (column 23 of statement).	30	
„ „ „ Section 122 „ 24 „	512	
„ „ „ „ 129 „ 25 „	3	
„ redeemed „ „ 142 „ 28 „	19	
„ dissolved by mutual consent „ 29 „	232	
Total	— —	95,548
Net increase during the year	.....	36,202
Grand Total at the close of the year		390,468

The above figures show an increase of 36,202, or 10·2 per cent. on the labour force remaining at the close of 1888. The importations were considerably greater during the year, but a smaller number of labourers are shown as having remained after the expiry of their contracts. District officers, however, consider that few coolies actually return to their homes. Many who remain in the Province are, doubtless lost sight of

Mean strength of the labour force

15. The statement below shows the total labour force at the beginning and end of each of the last three years, and the mean strength for the two half-years of 1889 :—

Class of labourers.	1st January 1887.	1st January 1888.	1st January 1889.	1st July 1889.	Mean strength for the first half-year of 1889.	31st December 1889.	Mean strength for the second-half year.
Act adults	77,476	81,701	88,311	102,267	95,289	97,282	99,774
Non-Act ... Adults	114,022	122,556	133,901	149,375	141,638	142,412	145,893
Non-Act ... Children	112,660	119,843	132,054	149,056	140,555	150,774	149,915
Total.....	304,158	324,100	354,266	400,698	377,482	390,468	395,583

District figures of the labour force

16. The details of the labour force of each district, showing the variations of strength during the year, are given below :—

District.	1st January 1889.	31st December 1889.	Percentage of total Provincial force.	Increase or decrease.	Percentage of increase or decrease.
Cachar	98,434	98,357	25·2	+ 4,923	+ 5·2
Sylhet	68,190	78,223	19·6	+10,033	+14 7
Total Surma Valley	161,624	176,580	44·9	+14,956	+ 9·2
Kámrúp	2,798	3,272	0·8	+ 474	+16·9
Darrang	36,818	40,517	10 4	+ 3,699	+10 0
Nowgong	13,396	14,025	3·6	+ 629	+ 4 6
Sibságar	80,068	87,868	22·6	+ 7,800	+ 9·7
Lakhimpur	59,562	68,20 5	17·4	+ 8,644	+14·5
Total Assam Valley	192,642	213,888	55·1	+21,246	+11 0
Grand Total	354,266	390,468	100·0	+36,202	+10·2

The greatest increase (10,033) occurred in the Sylhet district, regarding which the Deputy-Commissioner writes :—

" These tables show a steady increase of the coolie population, and it is attributable, not to a policy of extension of cultivation, but first to a desire of managers to have an excess labour force rather than a weak one on their gardens, and, secondly, to an extension of family immigration and a consequent greater importation of children."

Nationality of the adult labour force

17. The nationality and sex of the adult labour force at the beginning and end of the year are shown in the following table :—

Nationality	Sex.	Act.		Non-Act.		Total.		Ratio of nationality.
		1888	1889.	1888.	1889	1888	1889.	
8	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Bengal	Men	9,055	9,343	18,068	19,211	27,123	28,554	23 3
	Women	8,511	8,654	17,471	18,587	25,982	27,241	
North-Western Provinces, Oudh, and Behar.	Men	7,730	7,411	17,907	19,048	25,637	26,459	20 2
	Women	5,476	5,521	15,394	16,533	20,870	22,054	
Chota Nagpur	Men	29,653	33,847	28,185	30,556	57,838	64,403	50 5
	Women	24,255	28,807	25,431	27,852	49,686	56,659	
Nepal	Men	33	33	125	118	158	151	0 1
	Women	11	20	91	78	102	98	
Madras	Men	262	406	649	846	911	1,252	1 0
	Women	192	376	575	749	767	1,125	
Bombay	Men	7	5	131	126	138	131	0 1
	Women	6	6	138	130	144	136	
Assam	Men	2,332	2,110	8,044	6,713	10,376	8,823	4 8
	Women	788	730	1,692	1,827	2,480	2,557	
Orissa	Men	.....	9	.....	19	.....	28	.....
	Women	.....	4	.....	19	.....	23	
Total	Men	49,072	53,164	73,109	76,637	122,181	129,801	.....
	Women	39,239	44,118	60,792	65,775	100,031	109,893	
Grand Total	.....	88,311	97,282	133,901	142,412	222,212	239,694	.....

N B —The differences between the entries in columns 3, 5, & 7 and those in columns 4, 6 & 8 of the statement embodied in paragraph 23 of the Report for 1888 are due to causes explained at the foot of the statement at the end of this report.

The variations in the different ratios, as compared with the corresponding figures for the previous year, are small, and do not call for remark. The figures under the head of Orissa do not include all the Uriyas who have come into the Province. There appears to have been a very considerable importation from Orissa into the South Sylhet subdivision, where however the coolies were probably classed as coming from Bengal.

The proportion of Act, non-Act, and all coolies belonging to each nationality is shown below:—

	1888.	1889.		
	Total.	Act labourers.	Non-Act labourers.	Total.
Bengal	23·9	18·50	26·54	23·3
North-Western Provinces, Oudh, and Behar.	20·9	13·29	24·98	20·2
Chota Nagpur	48·1	64·41	41·01	50·5
Nepal	0·1	·06	0·14	0·1
Madras	0·8	·80	1·12	1·0
Bombay	0·1	·01	0·18	0·1
Assam...	5·8	2·92	6·00	4 8
Orissa	...	·01	·03	...
Total	100·	100·	100·	100·

18. The mean strength in each district for each half-year, and for the whole year, is shown in the following table. The percentages of mortality and desertions are calculated on these figures.

Mean strength in each district

District	Act.			Non-Act.						Total annual strength.		
				Adults.			Children.					
	First half-year.	Second half-year	Annual mean.	First half-year.	Second half-year	Annual mean.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Annual mean.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Annual mean.
Cachar ...	10,984	10,569	10,776	43,121	44,677	43,899	42,336	43,656	42,996	96,441	98,903	97,672
Sylhet ...	9,542	9,905	9,723	37,148	39,141	38,144	26,869	29,529	28,199	73,559	78,576	76,067
Kámrúp...	538	599	568	1,401	1,482	1,441	1,129	1,225	1,177	3,069	3,306	3,187
Darrang...	16 034	16,967	16,500	12,038	11,810	11,924	11,317	12,460	11,888	39,389	41,238	40,313
Nowgong	2,505	2,765	2,635	6,828	6,670	6,749	4,788	5,000	4,894	14,121	14,436	14,278
Sibsagar .	32,354	33,852	33,103	21,560	21,956	21,758	31,802	33,807	32 804	85,716	89,616	87,666
Lakhimpur	23,332	25,115	24,223	19,541	20,156	19,848	22,312	24,236	23,274	65,185	69,507	67,346
Total ...	95,289	99,774	97,531	141,638	145,893	143,765	140,555	149,915	145,235	377,482	395,583	386,532

CHAPTER III.—Contracts and Wages.

19. The number of contracts executed under Section 111 of the Act fell from 18,209 in the previous year to 17,818, or by 2·1 per cent. There was a very small increase in the number of local contracts executed under Section 112 of the Act in the presence of the Inspector. In addition to the above, 17,998 contracts were executed at Dhubri under Section 111, against 16,544 in the previous year, and 6,346 contracts were entered into in the recruiting districts, against 5,939 in the previous year. Thus, the total number of contracts executed during the year under report, whether in the districts of recruitment, at Dhubri, or in the labour districts, was 42,736 against 41,250 in the preceding year. These figures do not include contracts under Act XIII. of 1859, which is freely used in some districts.

Number of contracts made

Nationality of labourers making local contracts

20. The following table shows the sex and nationality of labourers who entered into local contracts district by district :—

District.	Sex.	Contracted under Section 111	Contracted under Section 112	Particulars of columns 3 and 4 by nationality								Total of columns 3 and 4.
				North Western Provinces, Oudh, and Behar.	Bengal.	Chota Nagpur	Nepal	Madras.	Bombay.	Assam	Orissa	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Cachar.....	Men	817	81	386	276	235	1	...	...	...	...	898
	Women..	631	38	279	201	189	...	...	...	.	...	669
	Total of 1889 ..	1,448	119	665	477	424	1	.	...	...	...	1,567
	„ „ 1888...	2,762	108	1,044	1,263	517	2	23	...	21	...	2,870
hat	Men	2,205	27	603	718	734	...	167	...	...	10	2,232
	Women.....	1,960	30	379	728	707	...	170	...	2	4	1,990
	Total of 1889 ..	4,165	57	982	1,446	1,441	...	337	...	2	14	4,222
	„ „ 1888...	3,388	69	1,093	1,203	1,080	3	78	...	...	...	3,457
Kámrúp	Men	8	.....	...	1	7	...	...	...	...	...	8
	Women	1	.....	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1
	Total of 1889...	9	. ....	...	1	8	...	...	...	...	...	9
	„ „ 1888...	29	18	...	...	30	...	...	...	17	...	47
Darrang	Men	2,062	73	160	308	827	1	3	.	836	...	2,135
	Women.....	1,002	17	79	245	475	1	6	...	213	...	1,019
	Total of 1889...	3,064	90	239	553	1,302	2	9	...	1,049	...	3,154
	„ „ 1888...	2,569	86	446	156	1,120	...	3	..	930	..	2,65.
Nowgong	Men	27	27	...	2	52	...	...	...	...	...	54
	Women	23	4	...	2	25	...	...	...	...	...	27
	Total of 1889...	50	31	...	4	77	...	..	..	...	...	81
	„ „ 1888...	97	.....	...	...	84	...	...	...	13	...	97
Sibságar	Men	4,363	125	593	848	2,388	7	32	3	617	...	4,488
	Women	3,131	52	401	729	1,940	9	31	2	71	...	3,183
	Total of 1889...	7,494	177	994	1,577	4,328	16	63	5	688	.	7,671
	„ „ 1888...	7,605	150	1,428	1,080	4,100	8	41	6	1,092	...	7,755
Lakhimpur.....	Men	959	73	21	128	826	...	16	...	41	...	1,032
	Women	629	27	9	96	528	...	14	...	9	...	656
	Total of 1889...	1,588	100	30	224	1,354	...	30	...	50	...	1,688
	„ „ 1888...	1,759	127	450	46	1,317	...	30	...	43	...	1,886
	Grand Total of 1889	17,818	574	2,910	4,282	8,934	19	439	5	1,789	14	18,392
	„ „ „ 1888	18,209	558	4,461	3,748	8,248	13	175	6	2,116	...	18,767

In the Sylhet and Darrang districts, an increase took place in the extent to which resort was had to Section 111 of the Act, while a decrease occurred in the Cachar, Kámrúp, Nowgong, Sibságar, and Lakhimpur districts. The Sibságar district continues to make the most extended use of Section 111. The statistics relating to Section 112 of the Act are too small to call for comment.

Details of local contracts

21. The following table gives details of local contracts, the classes of labourers who entered into them, and the terms of the contracts. Those executed at Dhubri are excluded:—

District.	Section 111.	Section 112.	Class of labourers.				Number of years.							
			New	Time-expired	Old Act coolies transferred.	Local.	Under one year.	1	2	Under two-and-a-half years.	3	4	Under five years.	5
Cachar	1,448	119	1,112	452	...	3	9	121	145	...	1,184	2	...	106
Sylhet	4,165	57	3,895	327	...	...	...	278	79	29	3,793	...	...	43
Kámrúp	9	...	4	5	...	...	...	8	...	...	...	1	...	...
Darrang	3,064	90	67	2,042	...	1,045	134	1,316	833	...	524	24	...	323
Nowgong	50	31	...	37	39	...	...	39	15	...	2	4	...	21
Sibságar	7,336	177	1,491	5,176	..	846	82	2,637	2,340	38	1,992	25	85	314
Lakhimpur	1,588	100	26	1,612	...	50	16	1,415	138	...	63	15	...	141
Total	17,660*	574	6,595	9,651	39	1,944	211	5,814	3,550	67	7,558	71	85	918
Total for 1888	18,056	558	5,655	10,772	40	2,147	244	7,024	3,232	5	7,271	158	25	655

* The difference between this entry and that in column 3 of the table in paragraph 20 showing nationality of labourers entering into local contracts and in column 6 of the statement at the end of the report is in the case of Sibsagar, and is attributed to the fact that 158 contracts executed in December were not sent in for registration till the following month

There was a large decrease in the number of contracts executed under Section 111 (from 2,762 to 1,448) in Cachar, and a small decrease in Lakhimpur, while the increase was considerable in Sylhet (3,388 to 4,165) and Darrang (2,569 to 3,064).

The following explanations are given of the variations. The Deputy-Commissioner of Sylhet writes:—

"Amongst the tea-planting community an uneasy feeling is spreading regarding the railway to be made from Chittagong. Though otherwise welcoming the railway, tea-planters fear that the demand for labour during its construction may entice away their labouring force, and I see a tendency fast springing up to place coolies once again under Act I. of 1882."

In Cachar contracts under Act XIII of 1859 are, it is said, largely replacing contracts executed under Section 111, Act I. of 1882. The Deputy-Commissioner thinks that "this is a change in the right direction." The Deputy-Commissioner of Lakhimpur states that a large number of contracts under Act XIII. are executed in his district, and the Commissioner understands that some managers avoid Act I. of 1882 altogether. The Darrang report gives no explanation of the increase.

With reference to the class of labourers who engage, it is noticeable that, while in the Surma Valley something like 86 per cent. are new coolies, in the Brahmaputra Valley the very large percentage of engagements are amongst time expired coolies. The Deputy-Commissioner, Sylhet, remarks

"The bulk of these contracts are undoubtedly executed by new coolies imported as free men, and are really executed to ensure to the employer that he shall recover the cost of importation. It is the exception for a time-expired coolie to re-engage under Act I.; and if he does re-engage under either of the labour Acts, it is generally owing to a desire merely to secure cash down in the shape of a bonus."

The bulk of the contracts seem to have been for three years and one year, but a considerable number for two years were executed in Sibságar. The number executed for five years has increased from 655 to 918. It appears generally that the longer contracts were executed by new immigrants, the period being in proportion to the expenses of importation.

22. The following table shows the extent to which contracts executed locally under Section 111 have been verified during the year. It shows also the number of contracts cancelled:—

Verification of contracts.

1	2				3	4	5	6
District.	Number and year of contracts under Section 111 (excluding those executed at Dhubri) remaining unverified at beginning of year under report				Number of contracts executed during the year under Section 111.	Total of columns 2 and 3.	Number of such contracts executed after the last inspection, where the garden has been inpected during the year under report.	Total number of contracts for verification (column 4—column 5).
	1886.	1887.	1888.	Total				
Cachar	...	...	1,721	1,721	1,448	3,169	642	2,527
Sylhet	...	34	985	1,019	4,165	5,184	643	4,541
Kámrup	...	...	2	2	9	11	2	9
Darrang	...	...	689	689	3,064	3,753	521	3,232
Nowgong	...	...	13	13	50	63	21	42
Sibságar	...	165	1,795	1,960	7,336	9,296	1,721	7,575
Lakhimpur	82	87	245	414	1,588	2,002	358	1,644
Total	82	286	5,450	5 818	17,660†	23,478	3,908	19,570
Total for 1888	816*	6,872	...	7,688	18,056	25,744	4,131	21,613

District	7										8	9	10
	Number and year of contract										Total (of totals under column 7).	Percentage of all contracts verified or cancelled (total of column 8 on total of column 6)	Percentage of contracts of year under report, verified or cancelled (total of sub-columns for year under report in column 7 on total of column 3, minus column 5).
	(a) Verified					(b) Cancelled							
	1886.	1887.	1888.	1889	Total	1886.	1887.	1888	1889	Total			
Cachar	...	...	1 230	723	1,953	...	...	19	28	47	2,000	79 1	93 1
Sylhet	...	10	717	3,119	3,846	..	1	2	54	57	3,903	85 9	90 0
Kámrup	...	...	1	6	7	...	...	...	...	.....	7	77 7	85 7
Darrang	...	...	433	2,512	2,945	...	...	.	..	..	2,945	91 1	98 7
Nowgong	...	...	9	25	34	..	...	4	4	8	42	100	100 0
Sibságar	...	165	1,108	4,689	5,962	...	...	3	24	27	5,989	79 0	83 9
Lakhimpur	67	62	214	1,161	1,504	...	14	...	3	17	1,521	92 5	94 6
Total	67	237	3 712	12,235	16,251	...	15	28	113	156	16,107	83 8	89 7
Total for 1888	507*	4,501	11,456	...	16,467	4*	124	53	...	181	16,648	77 2	82 6

* These figures include the figures of 1885 (105 81 & 4)
† See explanation at foot of statement showing details of local contracts

Looking at the results generally, the Chief Commissioner is glad to see that the percentages in the last two columns have risen considerably. The verifications in Darrang and Lakhimpur were particularly good, the improvement in the latter district being most marked. Although it is satisfactory to notice that more care is now taken by inspecting officers in this branch of their work, Mr Quinton observes that several cases are reported where managers failed to produce the coolies before the Inspector for verification of their contracts when he visited the garden. In such cases Inspectors should be careful to see that a sufficient reason exists for the non-production of the coolies.

23. The table in the next page shows the number of contracts which expired by lapse of time, the number of such contracts reported by managers, and the number of contracts cancelled or which terminated in other ways.

Expiry and cancelment of contracts

District	Number shown in garden returns as time-expired.	Number of time-expired contracts reported under Section 141.	Number cancelled by Inspector under Section 111.	Number suspended by Inspector for temporary unfitness, Section 120	Number cancelled by Inspector for permanent incapacity, Section 122.	Number made void by committee by reason of unfitness of estate, Section 129.	Number cancelled by Magistrate under Section 140.	Number redeemed under Section 142.	Number dissolved by mutual consent.
Cachar	3 270	3,189	24	.....	42	3	.....	8	4
Sylhet	3,111	3,111	3	3	68	.....	.....	2	21
Kámrúp	128	128	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Darrang	3,553	3,369	.....	.....	49	.....	.....	1	54
Nowgong	608	286	.....	.....	24	.....	.....	.....	26
Sibságar	9,096	7,286	2	.....	105	.....	1	6	81
Lakhimpur	3,695	3,559	.....	41	224	.....	.....	2	45
Total of 1889	23,461	20,928	29	44*	512	3	1	19	232
„ 1888	24,874	19,776	20	.....	400	10	6	36	330

*These contracts have not been shown in the statement at the end of the report

Managers appear to have been more careful to comply with the requirements of Section 141 of the Act during the year under report. The figures in Sylhet and Cachar are most satisfactory, while the improvement in Darrang and Lakhimpur is very marked. In Sibságar and Nowgong the results are very unsatisfactory. The Deputy-Commissioner of Nowgong reports that he is taking steps with the object of securing a more strict compliance with the law, and similar steps should be taken by the Deputy-Commissioner of Sibságar.

Of the 29 contracts cancelled under Section 111, 24 were cancelled in Cachar, chiefly in the Hailákándi sub-division. Three were cancelled in Sylhet, and two in Sibságar, owing to the executants being under age.

Forty-four contracts were suspended under Section 120 for temporary unfitness, of which 41 were suspended in Lakhimpur. These contracts, which all refer to one garden, were mostly of women, and were suspended during pregnancy. In all districts it is reported that subsistence allowance, or more commonly diet, is given to Act-I. coolies who are sick.

The number of contracts cancelled for permanent unfitness under Section 122 has increased from 400 to 512. In Sylhet, the number thus cancelled increased from 19 to 68. These contracts were cancelled in the South Sylhet sub-division. The sub-divisional officer writes in explanation:—

"The large number of contracts cancelled under Section 122 arose on account of the extensive recruiting of Uriyas during the year. They come up in entire families from youngest to oldest, almost in entire villages. The managers put under contract all that arrived instead of classing the old and weakly as dependents. The managers freely admitted they never expected these coolies would work regularly."

There was also a considerable increase in Cachar. Thirty-five contracts were cancelled, on the advice of the Civil Surgeon, in two gardens which were unhealthy in 1888, and were specially inspected during the year. A committee was convened on one of these gardens (Chandua), and three coolies were discharged, on the Committee's recommendation, under Section 129 of the Act. The decrease in Darrang is not explained. The increase in Sibságar and Lakhimpur is not large. The Deputy-Commissioner of the latter district observes that almost all the coolies whose contracts were cancelled under Section 122 were recruited by contractors.

The case of the contract in Sibságar cancelled on account of ill-usage on the part of the manager occurred in Jorhát. On enquiry the sub-divisional officer found from the account book that the man had not been paid what was due to him, and that he had been fined by the manager on account of alleged misconduct. The manager, moreover, admitted having struck him. The coolie was given Rs. 20, and released from his contract.

The redemptions of contracts under Section 142 of the Act fell from 36 to 19. The decrease occurred in Nowgong and Lakhimpur. No explanation is given in the reports.

A considerable decrease took place in the number of contracts dissolved by mutual consent, which occurred chiefly in Cachar and Lakhimpur. In regard to this matter the Deputy-Commissioner of Lakhimpur writes—

"The decrease is due to the Inspectors refusing to recognize in some cases cancelments that were not effected through any official, as they evidently were intended to reduce the death-rate in the gardens. In some cases contracts were cancelled under very peculiar circumstances. Some managers took agreements from the coolies as a guarantee for the return of their friends or relatives, who were sent down as garden-sardárs to their country, and, on the latter having returned, the agreements of the former were cancelled by mutual consent."

On the other hand, there was a considerable increase in Darrang and Sibságar. The Deputy-Commissioner, Darrang, writes in this connection—

"Many of these contracts are cancelled simply because the labourer wishes to take a bonus and give a new agreement for a longer term."

The Chief Commissioner has nothing to add to what was said in the special report on this subject.

Extent to which the second paragraph of Sections 121 and 170 of Act I. of 1882 are acted upon.

24. This question has been dealt with in the special report, and it is sufficient to remark here that the second paragraph of Section 121 was not acted upon, while Section 170 was only used in the following cases:—

Two managers sent in lists in Sylhet, but at the time of the enquiry withdrew them. Two managers in Nowgong sent in lists, but in neither case could the enquiry be held during the year. In Lakhimpur a few planters send in lists of absentees, "but none press for the endorsement of the days of absence on the contracts." The Deputy-Commissioner, Sibságar, writes—

"Many gardens still go through the formality of submitting lists. In the sadr 20 gardens, in Jorhát 11 gardens, and in Golaghát 14 gardens send in lists, but not in half a dozen cases is the Inspector ever asked to endorse the absent days on the contract. Such a proceeding is seldom pressed on the Inspector, as the result would be to create discontent among the coolies."

Repatriation of labourers

25. In Cachar the Deputy-Commissioner repatriated only 9 coolies. It is not stated in the report what became of the other coolies whose contracts were cancelled. Of the coolies whose contracts were cancelled under Section 122 in Sylhet, only 9 were sent home, 3 died after cancelment of their contracts, 3 left the gardens, and 53 remained in the district living with relatives. No compensation was paid to 31 of the latter. Besides these, 7 pauper coolies were repatriated by the sub-divisional officer of Karimganj. The latter were not coolies under Act I., and therefore the whole of the expense of repatriation was borne by provincial funds. In the Darrang district the Deputy-Commissioner sent home all the 49 coolies, whose contracts were cancelled under Section 122, with their three months' wages. Of the 24 coolies whose contracts were cancelled for permanent unfitness in Nowgong, 17 were given three months' wages and repatriated, while the remainder elected to remain on the gardens In Sibságar 92 coolies were sent back to their homes with an allowance of three months' wages, 11 remained on the gardens with their relatives, while two were confined as lunatics. In Lakhimpur, the Deputy-Commissioner sent home 134 coolies to whom three months' wages were paid by the managers, and the balance (where necessary) to make up the actual expenses of repatriation was paid from provincial funds. The remainder preferred to remain on the gardens

Wages

26. The following two statements give particulars of the wages earned by Act labourers and non-Act coolies, including children, in each sub-division. They are based on figures obtained during inspections of gardens. In the second table the average and highest wages are given both in the manufacturing and the non-manufacturing seasons:—

			Monthly wages. Average. Rs. A. P.	Highest. Rs. A. P.
Cachar (93)	Act	Men	4 6 7	8 2 1
		Women	3 1 2	6 11 5
	Non-Act	Men	4 11 9	8 6 7
		Women	3 7 0	7 3 11
		Children	1 13 5	4 3 9
North Sylhet (28)	Act	Men	3 13 4	5 14 6
		Women	2 14 5	4 5 7
	Non-Act	Men	4 4 7	7 2 1
		Women	3 4 0	5 10 2
		Children	1 14 8	4 2 7
South Sylhet (40)	Act	Men	4 2 3	6 12 0
		Women	3 1 11	5 12 0
	Non-Act	Men	4 4 5	6 8 0
		Women	3 4 9	5 2 8
		Children	1 12 0	3 4 3
Karimganj (12)	Act	Men	4 2 4	5 15 4
		Women	2 11 8	3 7 6
	Non-Act	Men	4 8 1	7 9 4
		Women	3 3 10	5 5 10
		Children	1 12 5	4 0 7
Habiganj (9)	Act	Men	3 13 6	9 15 3
		Women	3 4 3	9 0 6
	Non-Act	Men	4 15 8	9 9 0
		Women	4 9 10	12 12 0
		Children	2 3 6	7 1 0

			Monthly wages. Average. Rs. As. P	Highest. Rs. As. P
Kámrúp	Act	Men	3 13 0	6 9 0
		Women	3 6 0	5 7 0
	Non-Act	Men	4 7 0	6 13 0
		Women	3 8 0	5 12 0
		Children	2 12 0	3 14 0
Darrang (22)	Act	Men	5 5 6	8 10 0
		Women	4 6 9	7 0 3
	Non-Act	Men	5 11 10	8 11 5
		Women	4 1 1	6 11 3
		Children	2 11 9	3 9 0
Nowgong	Act	Men	4 10 6	8 5 4
		Women	4 3 1	9 3 8
	Non-Act	Men	5 10 9	9 5 4
		Women	5 1 10	10 8 5
		Children	2 4 7	4 3 1
Sibságar (106)	Act	Men	4 7 9	12 7 0
		Women	3 11 10	8 14 10
	Non-Act	Men	5 0 9	15 5 0
		Women	3 10 11	10 11 3
		Children	2 15 1	5 5 1
Lakhimpur	Act	Men	5 5 8	13 8 0
		Women	4 4 6	24 0 0
	Non-Act	Men	6 6 8	16 12 9
		Women	5 3 9	26 0 0
		Children	3 0 2	7 12 9

			Non-manufacturing or cold season monthly wages: Average. Rs. A. P.	Non-manufacturing or cold season monthly wages: Highest. Rs. A. P.	Manufacturing or rainy season monthly wages: Average. Rs. A. P.	Manufacturing or rainy season monthly wages: Highest. Rs. A. P.
Cachar (93)	Act	Men	4 4 9	6 7 7	4 12 1	9 3 0
		Women	2 14 2	5 1 2	3 9 10	7 13 4
	Non-Act	Men	4 10 1	7 2 0	5 2 0	10 2 5
		Women	3 2 0	5 10 8	4 1 7	8 7 3
		Children	1 4 3	3 7 6	2 9 8	5 10 0
North Sylhet (28)	Act	Men	4 1 2	5 7 6	3 9 7	6 5 6
		Women	2 14 6	3 14 7	2 14 5	4 12 8
	Non-Act	Men	4 3 6	6 11 1	4 5 9	7 9 2
		Women	3 1 6	4 13 3	3 6 7	6 7 2
		Children	1 12 1	3 10 3	2 1 4	4 11 0
South Sylhet (40)	Act	Men	4 9 11	10 14 0	4 3 8	11 8 0
		Women	3 0 10	4 6 3	3 4 8	10 6 0
	Non-Act	Men	4 2 11	10 0 0	4 5 10	10 7 3
		Women	3 1 5	7 0 0	3 8 1	14 4 0
		Children	1 12 10	6 9 0	1 11 2	8 8 9
Karimganj (12)	Act	Men	4 3 4	5 5 6	4 1 4	6 9 9
		Women	2 14 0	3 6 4	3 3 4	3 8 9
	Non-Act	Men	4 9 8	7 1 9	4 6 4	8 1 0
		Women	3 0 7	4 12 0	3 7 2	6 7 8
		Children	1 10 10	3 8 0	1 14 0	4 9 3
Habiganj (9)	Act	Men	3 12 1	6 11 0	3 14 11	9 15 3
		Women	2 13 9	4 12 6	3 10 9	9 0 6
	Non-Act	Men	4 12 11	6 1 6	5 2 6	9 9 0
		Women	4 2 6	4 14 0	5 1 2	12 12 0
		Children	1 15 2	(Not available.)	2 7 11	7 1 0
Kámrúp (14)	Act	Men	3 12 8	6 3 6	Not given in the inspection reports.	6 8 9
		Women	3 5 8	4 15 1		5 6 2
	Non-Act	Men	4 6 6	5 15 7		6 12 0
		Women	3 6 0	5 1 10		5 11 2
		Children	2 12 2	3 7 8		3 14 0
Darrang (47)	Act	Men	4 9 8	6 8 2	4 11 6	8 10 0
		Women	3 6 3	4 14 4	3 13 1	7 0 3
	Non-Act	Men	5 3 1	7 15 0	3 2 5	8 11 5
		Women	3 6 5	7 3 5	3 14 3	7 11 9
		Children	2 1 4	3 12 3	2 7 2	4 3 7
Nowgong	Act	Men	4 13 9	6 12 5	5 0 6	8 2 9
		Women	3 10 5	5 9 3	4 2 8	7 5 0
	Non Act	Men	5 0 6	6 7 9	5 14 8	9 3 0
		Women	4 1 2	5 2 6	5 0 6	10 5 1
		Children	2 9 0	2 14 0	2 13 0	3 12 0
Sibságar (106)	Act	Men	4 5 2	10 8 0	4 10 5	14 6 0
		Women	3 7 10	6 11 9	3 15 11	11 2 0
	Non-Act	Men	4 9 1	12 10 0	5 8 6	18 0 0
		Women	3 2 7	5 10 6	4 3 4	15 12 0
		Children	3 3 10	4 8 0	2 10 5	6 2 3
Lakhimpur	Act	Men	5 5 5	11 14 0	5 6 0	13 8 0
		Women	3 14 2	10 0 0	4 10 10	24 0 0
	Non Act	Men	6 5 2	14 0 0	6 8 2	16 12 9
		Women	4 11 2	13 0 0	5 12 5	26 0 0
		Children	2 13 6	5 0 0	3 2 10	7 12 9

The question of wages and the collateral sources of income possessed by the coolies has been fully discussed in the special report. The district reports for the year 1889 do not contain any facts which have not been previously stated.

CHAPTER IV.—Offences, including Desertions.

27. The following figures show the offences committed by the tea-garden population in each of the past two years under Act XIII. of 1859 and Act I. of 1882 respectively (excluding the offence of desertion, which is separately dealt with):—

Offences committed by tea-garden population

District.	Act XIII. of 1859		Act I. of 1882.									
			Section 151.—Garden-sardár failing to report himself.		Section 153.—Garden-sardár failing to comply with instructions endorsed on way-bills.		Section 163.—Employers refusing or omitting to keep registers, &c.		Section 164.—Employers or other persons, obstructing inspection under Section 114.		Section 168.—Employers neglecting to provide hospital accommodation.	
	1888.	1889.	1888	1889.	1888.	1889.	1888.	1889.	1888.	1889.	1888.	1889.
Cachar	22	71	...	2	2	5	...	22	...	...	...	1
Sylhet	26	5	...	...	6	1	10	...	...	...	...	...
Kámrúp	5	11	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Darrang	3	5	1	6	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
Nowgong	..	13	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Sibságar	109	9	3	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Lakhimpur	12	5	2	1	...	...	2	2	...	...	...	...
Total	177	119	6	12	8	6	12	24	...	1	...	1

District.	Act I. of 1882.—(*Concluded.*)												Total	
	Section 171.—Labourer absent without cause.		Section 172.—Not taking deserter to police station.		Section 176.—Employer arresting labourer without sufficient cause.		Section 178.—Labourer guilty of habitual drunkenness or wilful disregard of sanitary regulations.		Section 183.—Enticing away, harbouring, or employing labourer under contract.		Section 185.—Employer refusing to endorse labour contract, &c.			
	1888.	1889	1888.	1889.	1888.	1889.	1888	1889.	1888	1889.	1888.	1889.	1888	1889.
Cachar	3	2	...	...	1	...	...	...	8	4	...	...	14	36
Sylhet	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6	4	...	...	22	5
Kámrúp	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...
Darrang	25	28	...	...	...	...	...	1	8	3	...	...	34	39
Nowgong	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	4
Sibságar	8	11	...	...	...	...	...	4	13	9	...	...	24	27
Lakhimpur	11	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	7	3	...	...	23	7
Total	47	43	1	...	1	...	...	5	43	26	...	...	118	118

The above table discloses considerable variations. The increase in Cachar in regard to offences under Act XIII. of 1859 is probably due to the fact alluded to in paragraph 21 above, that Act-XIII. contracts are in that district replacing local contracts under Act I. Of the 71 persons convicted, 18 were sent to prison for various terms, 6 were ordered to refund their advances, and the remaining 47 were directed to fulfil their contracts. The decrease in Sylhet is not explained; 4 of the persons convicted were sent

back to work, and one was fined. In the Kámrúp cases, 10 coolies were ordered to work out their contracts, and one man refunded his advance. The 13 men prosecuted in Nowgong were Gáros from one garden, who were ordered to fulfil their agreements. Similarly, in Darrang and Sibságar the coolies were ordered to carry out their contracts. The large number convicted under the Act in Sibságar last year was due to a strike in one particular garden. In Lakhimpur four coolies were sent back to work out their agreements, two being ordered to give security to do so; and the fifth, on refusing to comply with a similar order, was sentenced to one month's imprisonment.

The total number of offences under Act I. was, the same as in the previous year. A considerable increase occurred in Cachar, and corresponding decreases in Sylhet and Lakhimpur. The increase in Cachar is due to the fact that 22 managers were prosecuted under Section 163 for omitting to keep registers or make returns. The garden-sardárs who failed to report themselves were imprisoned for a month each; one of the persons convicted of enticing away coolies was imprisoned for a fortnight. The offenders in all the other cases were fined. With regard to the Sylhet cases, one offender was sentenced to one month's imprisonment, and two were fined under Section 183 (for enticing away labourers under contract). The results in the remaining cases have not been reported, as the records were destroyed by the fire which occurred at Habiganj in January last. As was the case last year, the largest number of offences under Act I of 1882 occurred in the Darrang district. All the six sardárs convicted under Section 151 (garden-sardár failing to report himself) were imprisoned, but the terms of imprisonment are not stated. The case under Section 164 (employers or other persons obstructing inspection under Section 114) was a curious one. The clerk of a garden attempted to deceive the Inspector by reading out falsely the heading of a page in the attendance register. He was fined Rs. 10. Offences under Section 171 (labourer absent without cause) rose from 25 to 28; 20 offenders were imprisoned (terms not stated), and the remainder were simply sent back to the garden. The punishment inflicted under Section 178 (labourer guilty of habitual drunkenness or wilful disregard of sanitary laws) was one week's imprisonment. The persons convicted of enticing away labourers were imprisoned, one for one month and two for a fortnight each. In Nowgong all the offenders under Act I. were imprisoned, the punishment under Section 171 (absence of labourer without cause) being 14 days' imprisonment, while the three persons convicted under Section 183 (enticing away, harbouring, or employing labourers under contract) were imprisoned for one month each. The Deputy-Commissioner of Sibságar has not reported the punishments inflicted on all the offenders under Act I., but it is noticed that two men were sentenced to a fortnight's imprisonment each for taking away their wives, knowing that their contracts had not expired. In the Lakhimpur district two managers were fined for failure to make periodical returns. The garden sardár who failed to report himself was sentenced to 15 days' imprisonment; and the coolie who was found to have been unlawfully absent from work was sent to prison for seven days. Under Section 183 (enticing away, harbouring, or employing labourers under contract) the three persons convicted were sentenced to a month's imprisonment each. None of the above cases possesses any special interest.

The following statement shows the offences against the general criminal law committed in each of the past two years by the population of the tea gardens. Offences under Act XIII. of 1859 and Act I. of 1882, which have been treated above, are excluded:—

District.	Penal Code.																				
	Adultery	Unlawful assembly and affray.	Rioting.	Culpable homicide or attempt to commit ditto.	Murder	Attempt to commit suicide.	Assault.	Causing hurt.	Grievous hurt.	Theft.	Criminal trespass	Lurking house-trespass.	House-trespass.	House-breaking.	Dishonest misappropriation.	Dishonestly receiving stolen property.	Criminal intimidation.	Cheating.	Mischief.	Obstructing public servant.
Cachar	..	33	1	..	..	1	7	..	4	11	..	..	3	..	..	2	.	1	2	..
Sylhet	..	8	7	..	..	1	5	11	2	15	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..
Kámrúp	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	4	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Darrang	..	5	31	..	..	..	1	7	1	21	1	4	..	..	..	2	..	..	2	7
Nowgong	..	.	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1
Sibságar	..	..	5	..	..	..	7	5	6	17	7	4	..	2	1	5	..	..	2	..
Lakhimpur	..	..	..	2	..	5	16	2	1	17	..	1	..	1	..	3	4	..	3	..
Total of 1889	1	46	44	2	..	9	36	27	14	89	9	10	3	3	1	14	4	1	9	8
Total of 1888	..	15	17	3	1	7	37	23	16	113	4	5	3	2	..	14	1	..	6	1

District	Penal Code—(*Concluded*)																						
	Criminal breach of trust.	Laying false complaint.	Giving false evidence.	Counterfeit coin.	Unnatural offences.	Insult.	Wrongful confinement.	Offences against public tranquillity.	Contempt of lawful authority	Escaping from lawful custody	Rash driving	Rape	Forgery	Negligent act likely to spread infection.	Causing death by rash act.	Offering bribe	Enticing away a married woman.	Exposure of child, &c., Section 317	Public nuisance, Section 290	Total.	Act V. of 1861.	Offences under other Acts.	Grand total of all offences
Cachar	..	1	.	2	.		6	.	.				.	..				1	1	76	24	3	103
Sylhet	..	4		.			.	.		1							1			57		13	70
Kámrúp	..		.	..	.		.		.				..							8			8
Darrang	1	1		2	..	.	..		..				.		..	.		.		86		1	87
Nowgong						..	..	..	.										.	7		7	14
Sibságar	4			2			.	.		1	.				1	1		.		70	5	3	78
Lakhimpur	2	1					..	2		..	.		..	2			1		.	66	9	126	198
Total of 1889	7	7		6			6	2		2	.	.		2	1	1	2	1	1	367	38	153	558
„ 1888	8	2	.	2	.	4	7	.		1		1	1	2					..	290	38	41	375

This table shows a general increase of offences in all districts, with the exception of Sibságar and Nowgong, the increase being most marked in the case of Sylhet, Darrang, and Lakhimpur. In Sylhet the increase is due to assaults, affrays, petty thefts, and rioting. In Darrang there was an increase of serious rioting cases, while the increase in Lakhimpur is due to a large number of convictions under the Excise Act In the Sylhet district the only serious case was one of rioting, which occurred in the South Sylhet sub-division. It started from a dispute about rice between the coolies and some Bengali sellers in a bázár, and ended in one of the Bengalis being killed. Twelve coolies were committed to the Sessions; but only one was convicted, and he was sentenced to two years' rigorous imprisonment. Mr. Kennedy thinks that many petty cases, not only between coolies and their fellow labourers, but also between coolies and outsiders, are referred to garden managers, and adds that the people seem generally satisfied with the managers' decisions. With one exception which is further noticed in paragraph 51, the cases in Cachar were of a petty description. The numerous cases of affrays may be attributed, the Deputy-Commissioner remarks, to frequent changes of management. In the Darrang district there were several serious rioting cases It appears that there was a scare among the imported coolies of the Tezpur sub-division to the effect that certain men were marching about, collecting human heads, to be utilized in the foundation of a Government bridge. These alleged head-takers are called "urgas" by the Sonthals, "kotoris" by the Bengalis, and "gala-katas" by the North-Western coolies. In the Mijika garden the scare culminated in the whole force attacking a Nepali sawyer and very seriously maltreating him. The excitement was so intense that the District Superintendent of Police found great difficulty in keeping order, and eventually it became necessary for the Deputy-Commissioner to proceed to the garden with some frontier police. Thirteen of the rioters were convicted: nine were sentenced to two years' rigorous imprisonment each, and four to one year each. Taking advantage of the confusion during this riot, some coolies broke into a Nepali house, and stole several articles from it. Four persons were tried for house-breaking, and received a punishment of 30 stripes each. The scare, the origin of which could not unfortunately be traced, soon after subsided. Another rioting case, in which a manager was beaten, is described in paragraph 51. In Sibsagar there were two cases, in which coolies killed their wives Convictions were obtained under Sections 325 (voluntarily causing grievous hurt) and 326 (voluntarily causing grievous hurt by dangerous weapon or means) of the Indian Penal Code, and the men were sentenced to 7 years' imprisonment and transportation for life. Another serious case was one of arson, which was only proved after the coolie-lines had been burnt down for the third time. The accused were sentenced to 2 and 7 years' rigorous imprisonment. The only serious cases in the Lakhimpur district were an attempt to commit murder and causing grievous hurt, which resulted fatally. The punishments inflicted were respectively 7 and 3 years' imprisonment. The offences under "Other Acts" in this district were under the Excise and Gambling Acts

Several other cases, which bear on the relations between employers and labourers, are noticed in Chapter VII. of this report

The following table, which includes cases of desertion, compares the ratio of convictions to the tea-garden population for the past two years:—

District.	Mean adult garden population.		Number convicted of any offence.		Number sent to prison (Jail Report).		Ratio per-centum of imprisonments to convictions.	
	1888.	1889.	1888.	1889.	1888.	1889.	1888.	1889.
Cachar	51,069	54,675	289	354	203	191	70	53
Sylhet	42,787	47,868	137	119	66	96	48	80
Kámrúp	1,834	2,010	9	19	1	7	11	36
Darrang	26,027	28,425	197	199	111	117	56	58
Nowgong	8,901	9 381	25	57	18	31	72	54
Sibságar	50,225	54,861	491	347	349	307	71	88
Lakhimpur	39,014	44,072	215	454	166	268	77	59
Total	219,861	2,41,297	1,363	1,549	914	1,017	67	65

It will be noticed that while the provincial percentage of imprisonments to convictions corresponds closely with the figures for last year, the district percentages show considerable variations.

Provincial and district figures for desertion

28. The following table shows the number of adult deserters, district by district, for the past two years :—

District.	Total desertions among adults.		Act.		Non Act		Percentage of desertions on annual strength among					
							Act.		Non-Act.		Total adult population.	
	1888	1889	1888	1889	1888	1889	1888	1889	1888.	1889	1888	1889
Cachar	2,562	2,598	726	740	1,836	1,858	6 68	6 88	4 57	4 23	5 02	4 75
Sylhet	3,223	3,194	694	824	2,529	2,370	7 78	8 48	7 46	6 18	7 53	6 65
Kámrup	29	80	11	23	18	57	2 26	4 06	1 32	3 94	1 58	3 98
Darrang	901	912	480	535	421	377	3 44	3 22	3 47	3 14	3 44	3 20
Nowgong	462	481	72	152	390	329	3 54	5 77	5 68	4 85	5 22	5 12
Sibsagar	1,597	1,547	919	852	678	695	3 05	2 57	3 36	3 19	3 17	2 81
Lakhimpur	1,582	1,715	904	1,159	678	556	4 32	4 75	3 72	2 79	4 05	3 89
Total	10,356	10,527	3,806	4,285	6,550	6,242	4 36	4 38	4 93	4 33	4 70	4 35

The variations from last year's figures are extremely slight, and show, on the whole, a decrease from 4·70 to 4·35 in the percentage of desertions on the total adult population. The increase, where it occurs, whether among Act or non-Act coolies, is said to be due to more correct registration On the subject of desertions the Commissioner remarks :—"There is no reason whatever for arguing from a high proportion of desertions that coolies are badly off." The Chief Commissioner has stated his views on the subject of desertion in the special report recently submitted.

Arrests and convictions

29 The following table shows the number of deserters in each district, the number of warrants issued for their arrest, and the number of convictions obtained:—

	Number deserted (Act labourers).	Number of warrants issued.	Number arrested.					Number convicted.
			By warrant.	By manager.	By police.	By summons.	Total.	
Cachar	740	92	37	108	8	...	153	137
Sylhet	824	42	16	20	6	...	42	38
Kámrúp	23	1	1	...	...	...	1	1
Darrang	535	51	41	95	5	15	156	119
Nowgong	152	16	6	15	6	...	27	26
Sibságar	852	86	67	69	94	23	253	206
Lakhimpur	1,159	156	121	122	23	...	266	244
Total for 1889	4,285	447	289	429	142	38	898	771
„ 1888	3,806	368	201	413	173	12	799	693

The only noticeable points in this table are the decrease of convictions in Sibságar and the very large increase in Lakhimpur. No explanation of this result is given in the Sibságar report. All the 206 persons convicted in that district were imprisoned, but the terms of imprisonment are not stated. The Deputy-Commissioner, Lakhimpur, attributes the increase to the fact that "garden managers now inform the police more readily of the apprehension of deserters by themselves." Of the 241 coolies convicted in the Lakhimpur district, the Chief Commissioner learns that no less than 194 were sentenced to the full term of imprisonment allowed by Section 175 of Act I., 1882. Mr. Quinton, while on tour, saw 31 coolies in the jail at Dibrugarh imprisoned for desertion from one garden, and further enquiries disclosed the fact that they were new arrivals, and had been sentenced to the full term of punishment on their own admissions. The trying magistrate made no attempt to elicit from the accused any explanation of the desertions to which they pleaded guilty, nor was the plea considered in mitigation of punishment. The garden in question (Hukanguri) is unhealthy, and has a bad desertion record. The Chief Commissioner cannot but think that the punishments inflicted in these cases were unduly severe, and that the almost wholesale infliction of the full penalty allowed by the law shows a lack of discrimination and judgment. The facts of this case have been brought to the notice of magisterial officers with the object of preventing similar want of judgment in future.

The other district reports do not give any information as to the punishments inflicted on deserters.

Nationality and sex of deserters.

30. The nationality and sex of deserters is shown below:—

Nationality.	Sex	Number of deserters.				Total.		Percentage of desertions on annual strength among					
		Act		Non Act				Act labourers.		Non-Act labourers.		Total.	
		1888	1889	1888.	1889.	1888.	1889.	1888.	1889.	1888.	1889.	1888	1889.
Bengal	Men	427	412	733	629	1,160	1,041	4 60	4 32	4 12	3·29	3 67	3·21
	Women	195	222	596	535	791	757	2·23	2·50	3 44	2·89		
North-Western Provinces, Oudh, and Behar	Men	754	750	1,355	1,550	2,109	2,300	9·47	9·50	7 81	8 13	6·84	7 20
	Women	235	319	782	918	1,017	1,237	4 23	5 54	5·28	5 59		
Chota Nagpur	Men	1,495	1,709	1,170	923	2,645	2,632	5·76	5 07	4 15	3·05	3·80	3 29
	Women	500	603	738	706	1,238	1,309	2 11	2 13	2·96	2·57		
Nepal	Men	6	...	4	9	10	9	6·26	...	3·20	7·11	4 31	6·66
	Women	...	3	2	5	2	8	...	27 27	1·81	5·84		
Madras	Men	6	28	75	40	81	68	2·48	7 50	11 52	5·07	6·91	4 30
	Women	5	3	27	22	32	25	2 86	98	4 68	3 21		
Bombay	Men	...	...	4	4	4	4	...	...	3·39	3·15	2 34	2·95
	Women	...	...	2	4	2	4	...	.	1 59	3·06		
Assam	Men	156	214	950	761	1,106	975	6 71	9 50	9 92	8 13	8·84	7 98
	Women	27	21	132	136	159	157	3 44	2·72	8 14	7·53		
Orissa	Men	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	25·00	...	...	...	2 50
	Women	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...		
Total	Men	2,844	3,114	4,271	3,916	7,115	7,030	5·86	5·79	5 83	4 96	5·85	5 30
	Women	962	1,171	2,279	2,326	3,241	3,497	2·48	2 66	3 84	3 57	3 30	3·21
Grand Total	.....	3,806	4,285	6,550	6,242	10,356	10,527	4·36	4·38	4 93	4·33	4·70	4·31

These figures show practically the same results as those of the previous year.

It has been remarked that the tables incorporated in this chapter are not very reliable, and this is doubtless true ; but, on the other hand, it appears to the Chief Commissioner that they could be made more reliable. It is probable that district officers do not compile their tables till the close of the year, when it is naturally difficult to pick out and distinguish all the cases in which garden coolies were concerned. Deputy-Commissioners should require subordinate magistrates to send in monthly statements of all cases tried by them with which coolies were connected, with a short history of each case, and in this way more accurate registration would certainly be secured.

CHAPTER V.—Vital Statistics and Health of Garden Population.

31. The following figures show the birth-rate per mille during the two past years, calculated on the mean strength of adult female labourers :— Birth rate.

	1888.	1889.
Cachar	128·9	132·3
Sylhet	106·6	106·3
Kámrúp	144·5	87·1
Darrang	69·4	77·6
Nowgong	87·1	95·7
Sibságar	100·5	96·6
Lakhimpur	89·2	92·3
Total	103·2	103·9

The figure is lowest, as has been the case during the last three years, in Darrang, and is still, it is believed, far from correct. The Deputy-Commissioner of Kámrúp has given no reason for the very great falling off in his district, and other district reports offer no remarks on the figures.

32. The following table distributes the births among the different nationalities, and strikes the ratio on the mean strength of adult female labourers :— Birth-rate according to nationality

District	Bengal.			North-Western Provinces, Oudh, and Behar			Chota Nagpur			Nepal		
	Annual strength of women employed under Act I. or otherwise.	Births.	Birth-rate per mille.	Annual strength of women employed under Act I. or otherwise.	Births	Birth-rate per mille.	Annual strength of women employed under Act I. or otherwise.	Births.	Birth-rate per mille.	Annual strength of women employed under Act I or otherwise	Births.	Birth-rate per mille.
Cachar	9,549	1,130	118·3	7,436	1,185	159 3	7,527	982	130 4	51	2	39 2
Sylhet	6,395	626	97 8	9,595	1,077	112·2	6,414	680	106·0	5	.....	...
Kámrup	366	22	60 1	8	...	...	483	52	107·6	8	2	250 0
Darrang	2,589	148	57 1	1,054	95	90·1	6,679	559	83 6	16	1	62 5
Nowgong	615	112	182 1	153	9	58 8	2,578	216	83·7	6	.....	...
Sibsagar	5,329	381	71 4	2,976	279	93 7	16,027	1,691	105·5	8	1	125 0
Lakhimpur	2,408	129	52 3	875	38	43 4	15,856	1,609	101 4	2	.....	...
Total of 1889	27,312	2,548	93 2	22,100	2,683	121 4	55,563	5,789	104 1	99	6	60·6
1888	25,927	2,484	95 8	20,388	2,729	133·8	48,348	4,663	96 4	116	3	25 8

District.	Madras.			Bombay.			Assam			Orissa.			Total.		
	Annual strength of women employed under Act I. or otherwise.	Births.	Birth-rate per mille.	Annual strength of women employed under Act I. or otherwise.	Births.	Birth-rate per mille.	Annual strength of women employed under Act I. or otherwise.	Births.	Birth-rate per mille	Annual strength of women employed under Act I. or otherwise.	Births.	Birth rate per mille.	Annual strength of women employed under Act I. or otherwise	Births.	Birth rate per mille.
Cachar	241	4	16·5	126	2	15·8	63	2	20·8	...	...	..	24,995	3,307	132 3
Sylhet	578	52	89·9	6	1	166·6	17	10	588·2	11	2	188 8	23,022	2,448	106·3
Kámrúp	...	...	...	...	...	...	84	7	83 3	...	...	...	949	83	87 4
Darrang.....	29	1	34·4	...	...	...	1,198	94	78 4	...	...	...	11,566	898	77 6
Nowgong	32	...	...	...	...	...	543	39	71 8	...	...	...	3,926	376	95 7
Sibságar.....	86	3	34 8	5	...	...	576	63	109 3	...	...	...	25,011	2,418	96·6
Lakhimpur	48	4	83·3	...	...	...	108	7	64·8	...	...	...	19,357	1,787	92 3
Total of 1889 ...	1,013	64	63·1	137	3	21·8	2,590	222	85·7	11	2	188·8	1,08,828	11,317	103 9
„ 1888 ...	753	62	82·3	131	3	22 9	2,413	183	75·8	...	...	...	98,080	10,127	103·2

33. The statistics of mortality in each district for each half-year separately are given in the table below, where they are compared with the corresponding figures of the previous year :—

Death rate for the year.

District.	Deaths among all classes of labourers, including children.						Ratio of deaths per mille.					
							Half-yearly.				Annual.	
	First half-year.		Second half-year.		Total.		First half-year.		Second half-year.			
	1888	1889.	1888.	1889	1888.	1889.	1888	1889	1888.	1889.	1888.	1889.
Cachar	1,369	2,094	1,418	1,939	2,787	4,033	15 1	21 7	15·2	19·6	30 3	41 3
Sylhet	1,123	1,452	1,193	1,422	2,316	2,874	17 4	19 7	17·5	18·0	34·9	37 7
Kámrúp..... ...	72	96	55	86	127	182	25 5	31·3	19 4	26·0	44·9	57 3
Darrang..... ...	718	896	826	840	1,544	1,736	20·8	22·7	22 3	20·3	43 1	43 1
Nowgong	281	272	242	324	523	596	21·5	44 9	17 7	57 8	39 2	102·7
Sibságar..... ...	1,779	1,693	1,890	1,991	3,669	3,684	23·0	19 7	23 5	22·2	46 5	41·9
Lakhimpur	1,393	1,295	1,498	1,812	2,891	3,107	24 2	19·8	24·9	26 0	49 1	45 8
Total	6,735	7,798	7,122	8,414	13,857	16,212	19·8	20 6	20·0	21·2	39 8	41 8

The Chief Commissioner regrets to notice that the mortality has again increased. The year, on the whole, appears to have been an unhealthy one; there were numerous cholera outbreaks in Cachar, Sylhet, and Nowgong, where the mortality was especially heavy, the deaths from cholera on two gardens alone exceeding all the deaths from that cause in the whole district during the previous year. *Kála-azár* was prevalent in the Kámrúp district In Cachar the higher mortality for 1889 corresponded with an even greater proportional increase for the district as a whole. The annual death-rate in Sylhet (37·7) follows the district death-rate (31·47) in being higher than in the previous year. The recorded mortality for the whole of the Nowgong district was only 29 46 per mille, and though it is probable that the registration on tea-gardens is more correct, yet the difference between the recorded mortality in the whole district and that on gardens is altogether disproportionate. There is, however, a satisfactory decrease in the death-rate in the Sibságar and Lakhimpur districts.

Death-rate among adults.

34. The following table shows the mortality among both Act and non-Act adults during the past two years :—

District.	Number of deaths among adults.						Ratio per mille of deaths to annual strength.						Annual strength of total adult population of both Act and non-Act labourers.	
	Act.		Non-Act.		Total.		Act.		Non-Act.		Total.			
	1888.	1889.	1888.	1889.	1888.	1889.	1888.	1889.	1888.	1889.	1888.	1889.	1888.	1889.
Cachar	673	808	1,242	1,814	1,915	2,622	61·9	75·0	30·9	41·3	37·5	47·9	51,069	54,675
Sylhet	516	686	1,062	1,322	1,578	2,008	57·8	70·6	31·2	34·6	36·6	41·9	42,787	47,886
Kámrúp	42	39	45	84	87	123	86·9	70·2	33 3	58·2	47·3	61·1	1,834	2,010
Darrang	890	1,033	247	306	1,137	1,339	62·6	62·6	20·4	26 6	43·1	47·1	26,027	28,433
Nowgong	115	178	196	232	311	410	58·1	66 9	28·3	34·3	34·9	43·6	8,901	9,384
Sibságar	1,716	1,836	683	746	2,399	2,581	57·0	55·3	33·7	34·2	57·7	47·0	50,226	54,861
Lakhimpur	1,552	1,622	533	617	2,085	2,239	74 8	66·5	29·2	31·0	53·4	50·8	39,014	44,072
Total	5,494	6,202	4,008	5,120	9,502	11,322	62·9	63·5	30·2	35·6	48·2	46·9	219,861	241,297

From the above figures, it appears that the mortality among non-Act adults increased in every district, while the total mortality among Act labourers rose from 62·9 to 63·5 per mille. Excluding Kámrúp, where the figures are small, the mortality amongst Act adults was heaviest in Cachar and Sylhet. The Deputy-Commissioner of Sibságar writes : " Too much reliance must not be placed on these figures; they do not prove much. It is a well known fact that on some gardens where it is considered that the mortality among Act labourers is too high, *i.e.*, where through the high death-rate it is feared that a committee may be assembled or some disagreeable result may ensue, a number of healthy free labourers are put under the Act, solely for the purpose of increasing the number of Act labourers and thereby decreasing the percentage of mortality among them."

Causes of deaths among Act coolies.

35. The table below shows the recorded causes of deaths that occurred among Act labourers during the past two years :—

District.	Mean strength of Act labourers employed in 1889.		Deaths from						Total of columns 4 to 9.			Annual ratio of deaths per mille.
	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Cholera.	Dysentery.	Jungle fever.	Dropsy.	Anæmia.	Other causes.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Total.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Cachar 1889	10,984	10,569	245	145	98	43	...	277	388	420	808	75·0
1888	10,770	10,923	107	112	102	21	...	331	275	398	673	61·9
Sylhet 1889	9,542	9,905	218	148	63	62	...	195	385	301	686	70·6
1888	8,960	8,868	134	80	61	39	...	202	254	262	516	57·8
Kámrúp 1889	538	599	6	7	4	2	...	20	27	12	39	70·2
1888	477	491	10	6	9	6	...	11	24	18	42	86·9
Darrang 1889	16,034	16,967	293	250	52	74	93	271	520	513	1,033	62·6
1888	13,368	14 630	231	216	37	123	...	273	389	491	880	62·5
Nowgong 1889	2,505	2,765	67	42	9	13	...	47	69	109	178	66 9
1888	1,897	2,102	31	21	5	...	...	58	67	48	115	58·1
Sibságar 1889	32,354	33,852	408	547	136	116	77	552	817	1,019	1,836	55·3
1888	29,678	30,418	421	498	94	80	...	663	808	908	1,716	57·0
Lakhimpur 1889	23,332	25,115	328	339	164	142	120	529	650	972	1,622	66 5
1888	20,291	21,348	378	318	101	...	...	755	726	826	1,552	74 3
Total of 1889	95,289	99,774	1,565	1,478	526	452	290	1,891	2,856	3,346	6,202	63·5
,, 1888	85,444	88,783	1,312	1,211	409	269	...	2,293	2,543	2,951	5,494	62·9
,, 1887	79,773	81,897	1,013	969	416	244	...	1,992	2,069	2,565	4,634	57·2

It will be seen from the above table that there was a large increase in the total number of deaths from cholera, and a corresponding increase in the deaths from dysentery. In Cachar the increase was very marked under both these heads of disease. In Sylhet there was an increase under each head of disease except under "other causes." In both these districts the increase in the number of deaths was out of proportion to the increase in the garden population. In Darrang the ratio per mille is unchanged, although the actual number of deaths increased. On the other hand, the ratio per mille decreased in Sibságar and Lakhimpur, notwithstanding the greater number of deaths. In Nowgong the deaths from dysentery were double those of the previous year, and the deaths from cholera more than double. On the whole, however, cholera was more fatal in the Surma than in the Brahmaputra Valley. The cholera death-rate in Sylhet and Cachar was 19·27 and 9 9 per mille respectively. A column has been added to the tables in this and the following paragraphs for the purpose of showing the mortality from "anæmia." The fact that several districts return no deaths from this cause cannot be considered to show total immunity from the disease in these districts, and is probably due to defective classification. The classification of death causes is entirely in the hands of garden medical practitioners, and varies according to the idiosyncrasies of particular officers, but any obvious defect, such as that under notice, should of course attract the attention of Civil Surgeons when inspecting gardens, and the Deputy-Surgeon-General will be requested to call the attention of all civil medical officers to the matter.

Causes of death amongst non-Act coolies.

36. The table below shows the recorded causes of death amongst adult non-Act coolies during the past two years:—

District.		Mean strength of non-Act labourers employed in 1889.		Deaths from						Total of columns 4 to 9.			A nnual ratio of deaths per mille
		First half-year.	Second half-year.	Cholera.	Dysentery.	Jungle fever.	Dropsy.	Anæmia	Other causes.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Total.	
1		2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Cachar	1889	43,12f	44,677	381	201	351	61	...	820	1,010	804	1,814	41·3
	1888	39,498	40,947	198	142	98	48	...	756	742	500	1,242	30·9
Sylhet	1889	37,148	39,141	299	229	225	95	4	470	654	668	1,322	34·6
	1888	23,786	34,961	171	185	189	97	...	420	503	559	1,062	31·2
Kámrúp	1889	1,401	1,482	5	12	29	6	...	32	42	42	84	58 2
	1888	1,381	1,319	9	2	19	1	...	14	22	23	45	33·3
Darrang	1889	12,038	11,810	96	48	23	17	22	100	181	125	306	25 6
	1888	11,793	12,263	47	47	31	26	...	96	102	145	247	20·4
Nowgong	1889	6,828	6,670	29	28	44	24	...	107	108	124	232	34·3
	1888	6,798	70,06	30	30	35	...	..	101	103	93	196	28·3
Sibságar	1889	21,560	21,956	191	145	55	36	23	295	387	358	745	34 2
	1888	19,677	20,676	208	113	45	40	...	277	344	339	683	33 7
Lakhimpur	1889	19,541	20,156	103	118	72	40	17	267	272	345	617	31 0
	1888	17,980	18,408	113	83	49	84	...	204	251	282	533	29 2
Total of 1889 ...		141,638	145,893	1,104	781	799	279	66	2,091	2,654	2,466	5,120	35 6
„ 1888...		129,915	135,581	776	602	466	296	...	1,868	2,067	1,941	4,008	30·2
„ 1887...		120,075	124,301	611	569	504	225	...	1,358	1,558	1,709	3,267	25·8

The comments made on the figures of the previous tables generally apply to these figures also. There was a marked increase in the mortality due to cholera, dysentery, and fever. The great disproportion in the number of deaths recorded as due to jungle fever in the Surma and Brahmaputra Valleys respectively seems to point to a different system of classification in the two valleys. The Deputy-Surgeon-General thinks that some of the dysentery and diarrhœa cases may in reality have been cases of *anchylostomiasis*, in which disease bowel-complaints sometimes figure as a prominent symptom.

37. The statement below shows the death-rate among children (that is, from birth to the age of 16 years) during the last two years:—

Death rate among children

District	Mean strength of children in 1889		Deaths from						Total of columns 4 to 9			Total of 1888	Annual ratio of deaths per mille	
	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Cholera	Dysentery.	Jungle fever	Dropsy.	Anæmia	Other causes.	Fir t half year	Second half-year	Total		1889	1888.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Cachar	42,336	43,656	342	181	271	87	..	530	696	715	1,411	872	32 7	21 3
Sylhet	26,869	29 529	124	121	238	41	...	332	413	453	866	738	30 6	31·6
Kámrup	1,129	1 225	1	7	16	5	...	30	27	32	59	40	50 0	40 7
Darrang .	11,317	12 460	107	77	71	18	25	99	195	202	397	417	33 4	42 9
Nowgong	4,788	5,0 0	31	34	30	9	...	82	95	91	186	212	38 0	47·9
Sibsagar .	31,802	33,807	186	264	191	47	17	398	489	614	1,103	1,270	33 4	44 3
Lakhimpur .	22,312	24,236	69	237	161	54	33	314	373	495	868	806	37 1	40 7
Total of 1889 .	140 55o	149,915	870	921	978	261	75	1,785	2,288	2,602	4,890	...	33·5	...
Total of 1888 ...	124,459	130,560	625	967	851	239	...	1,673	2,125	2,230	4,355	4,355	...	34·0

From this table it appears that the mortality rates among children decreased from 34 to 33·5 per mille. The Chief Commissioner is, however, of opinion that, in view of the figures given in the two tables incorporated in the preceding paragraphs, the result, as shown in the above table, cannot be accepted as correct. The Deputy-Surgeon-General points out that the normal death rate among children from birth to 14 years is 48·83 per mille, and the only conclusion Mr. Quinton can arrive at is that the registration of deaths among children is more incorrect than in the case of adults. The conditions of infant life appear to be more favourable in the Surma than in the Brahmaputra Valley, but it is unsafe to draw any deduction from the figures.

38. The following is the order of demerit of the various districts, both with regard to the mortality among the three different classes of the labour force and to the total mortality:—

Order of demerit as regards death-rate

	Order of mortality among			
	Act adults	Non-Act adults.	Children	Total.
Cachar	1	2	5	6
Sylhet	2	3	6	7
Kámrup	3	1	1	2
Darrang	6	7	4	4
Nowgong	4	4	2	1
Sibságar	7	5	4	5
Lakhimpur	5	6	3	3

Sylhet and Cachar have changed places, but are still the healthiest districts in the Province. Both, however, owe their position to the proportionately small number of deaths among children. Sibságar has greatly improved its position, having been the least unhealthy district for Act labourers. The most unhealthy districts were Nowgong and Kámrup, both of which, however, employ a far smaller labour force than the other districts.

Mortality according to the country of origin.

39. The statement below shows the mortality distributed according to nationality, and gives figures for adults only:—

Nationality.	Sex.	Deaths amongst adults of both classes.		Ratio per mille of deaths to annual strength.		Annual strength of adults of both Act and non-Act labourers.	
		1888.	1889.	1888.	1889.	1888.	1889.
Bengal	Men	892	1,077	33·9	38·4	52,947	55,925
	Women	906	1,072				
North-Western Provinces, Oudh, and Behar	Men	1,165	1,401	44·7	50·8	45,693	49,004
	Women	885	1,092				
Chota Nagpur	Men	2,876	3,287	52·9	53·2	104,761	119,423
	Women	2,553	3,070				
Nepal	Men	5	2	36·5	23·6	277	254
	Women	5	4				
Madras	Men	19	55	29·9	47·9	1,633	2,190
	Women	30	50				
Bombay	Men	3	4	15·6	18·4	256	271
	Women	1	1				
Assam	Men	108	139	11·3	14·5	14,315	14,199
	Women	54	68				
Orissa	Men	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	27
	Women	.....	.....				
Total	Men	5,068	5,965	41·6	45·0	121,781	132,469
	Women	4,434	5,357	45·1	49·2	98,080	108,828
Grand Total		9,502	11,322	43·2	46·9	219,861	241,297

The figures in the above table support those given in last year's report as regards the relative rate of mortality amongst labourers from the different countries of recruitment. The mortality amongst the Chota Nagpuris is still the highest, and this is the case in all districts except Cachar. A considerable increase occurred in the death-rate amongst coolies imported from the North-Western Provinces, Oudh, and Behar. The number of Madras coolies is small, and the increase in their mortality carries no particular significance.

Proportion of unhealthy gardens in each district.

40. The following statement shows the proportion of unhealthy gardens in each district. All gardens which have ten or more deaths on them during the year, and the death-rate on which exceeds seven per cent., are classed as unhealthy gardens:—

	Number of gardens.		Number of unhealthy gardens.		Percentage of unhealthy gardens.	
	1888.	1889.	1888.	1889.	1888.	1889.
Cachar	184	184	7	12	3·8	6·5
Sylhet	112	114	4	10	3·5	8·7
Kámrúp	89	89	2	1	2·2	1·1
Darrang	85	86	12	21	14·1	24 4
Nowgong	61	61	2	6	3·2	9·8
Sibságar	211	211	21	33	9·9	15·6
Lakhimpur	150	151	17	27	11·3	17·8
Total	892	896	65	110	7·2	12·2

It is a matter for great regret to find that the proportion of unhealthy gardens for the Province has reached a higher percentage during the year under report than has been the case since the passing of Act I. of 1882. With the insignificant exception of Kámrúp, every district has been very much more unhealthy during the year. The proportion in the districts of Darrang, Lakhimpur, and Sibságar is especially large, while in Cachar, Sylhet, and Nowgong the percentage has increased in what at first sight appears to be an alarming manner. It must, however, be remembered that, in accordance with the remarks made on this subject in paragraph 58 of last year's report, the list of unhealthy gardens now includes all gardens on which the average mortality, either for the garden population as a whole, or for the Act or for the non-Act labourers, taken separately,

exceeds 7 per cent., and the number of deaths from which the average is struck exceeds ten. The former practice was to strike the average of mortality on the whole population, and the increase in the number of unhealthy gardens shown in the present report is doubtless largely due to the new method of calculating the mortality. In the following paragraphs each district will be taken up separately, and the causes of unhealthiness will be discussed.

Unhealthy gardens in Cachar

41. There were 12 unhealthy gardens in Cachar (8 in the Sadr and 4 in the Hailákándi sub-division), against 7 in the previous year. The following statements give the particulars and causes of the mortality :—

Sub-division.	Name of garden.	Mean strength.		Deaths.			Ratio per mille.			Deaths among Act labourers.	
		First half-year.	Second half year.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Total.	First half-year.	Second half year.	Annual.	Number.	Ratio per mille.
Sadr	Sonacherra	450	430	26	10	36	57·7	23·2	81·0	11	145·3
	Panicherra	392	372	15	22	37	38·2	59·1	97·3	12	117·8
	Baladhan	649	657	41	30	71	63·1	45·6	108·8	38	173·0
	Palarband	1,350	1,405	48	66	114	35·5	46·9	82·5	27	150·4
	Dhubidar	525	522	13	29	42	24·7	55·5	80·3	20	178·5
	Chandua	239	259	14	14	28	58·5	54·0	112·6	11	92·7
	Nagadum	360	379	22	26	48	61·1	68·6	129·7	25	140·3
	Duarband	516	545	16	46	62	31·0	84·4	115·4	...	...
Hailákándi	Vernerpur	337	414	49	5	54	145·4	12·0	157·4	5	65·7
	Mohanpur	596	562	26	16	42	43·6	28·4	72·0	8	97·5
	Ainakhal	1,026	1,071	43	31	74	41·9	28·9	70·8	40	100·5
	Nuniakhal	190	230	9	8	17	47·3	34·7	82·1	3	96·7
	Total of unhealthy gardens.	6,630	6,846	322	303	625	48·5	44·2	92·8	...	...
	Total of district	96,441	98,903	2,094	1,939	4,033	21·7	19·6	41·3	...	...
	Balance, *i.e.*, healthy gardens.	89,811	92,057	1,772	1,636	3,408	19·7	17·7	37·4	...	...

The causes of deaths are shown below:—

Sub-division.	Name of garden.	Cholera.	Dysentery	Fever.	Dropsy.	Anæmia.	Other causes.	Total.
Sadr	Sonacherra	16	8	5	3	..	4	36
	Panicherra	7	15	10	1	...	4	37
	Baladhan	24	9	3	2	...	33	71
	Palarband	42	26	5	6	...	35	114
	Dhubidar	...	17	6	14	...	5	42
	Chandua	10	3	2	4	...	9	28
	Nagadum	2	13	7	6	...	20	48
	Duarband	39	5	7	1	...	10	62
Hailákándi	Vernerpur	41	2	4	...	...	7	54
	Mohanpur	11	12	7	4	...	8	42
	Ainakhal	30	32	1	8	...	3	74
	Nuniakhal	8	1	2	1	...	5	17
	Total	230	143	59	50	...	143	625

Of the above gardens, Chandua and Nagadum have been on the unhealthy list since 1886; while Dhubidar appeared in 1887 and again in 1888. Báládhan appeared in last year's list.

With regard to the general unhealthiness, the Deputy-Commissioner of Cachar writes—

"Cholera has swollen the list of the unhealthy gardens in Cachar enormously. Of the 12 gardens which now appear on the list, four re-appear from last year's list, namely, Baladhan, Dhubidar, Chandua, and Nagadum, all four inveterate offenders who have appeared on the black list very frequently

Of these, Dhubidar and Nagadum would have appeared on the list even had there been no cholera, and Baladhan and Chandua are remote and isolated gardens, chiefly manned by Act coolies of a bad type. I am awaiting the Civil Surgeon's report before taking steps to hold committees on all those gardens. Duarband, on the other hand, is a good and popular garden, and owes its appearance in the list simply to the fact that when the military police reserves were quartered near the lines, a very bad outbreak of cholera occurred at the end of the year under report. * * * * *
If cholera be omitted, only Panicherra, Dhubidar, Nagadum, and Mohanpur appear in the black list."

The following remarks are taken from the Civil Surgeon's reports :—

"*Sonacherra.—Number of deaths.—First half of 1889.—Free Labourers.*—Adults : 6 cholera, 2 dropsy, 3 dysentery, 1 fever, total 12. Children: 5 cholera, 1 fever, total 6. Eliminating cholera, the death-rate for these coolies (free) is small.

"*Act Labourers.*—Adults: 3 cholera, 2 dysentery, 1 diarrhœa, 1 fever, 1 syphilis, total 8. There were but few Act coolies on this garden for the first half, considerably under a hundred. Two of the coolies, 1 diarrhœa and 1 dysentery, arrived ill, imported in 1889.

"*Second half.—Free Labourers.*—Adults: 2 cholera, 1 dropsy, 1 dysentery, 1 fever, total 5. Children : 1 fever, 1 dropsy, total 2.

"*Act Labourers.*—2 dysentery, 1 diarrhœa, total 3. This latter (Act) based on a still smaller number of coolies.

"Of these 36 deaths bowel-complaints show a total of 26, of which, however, 16 were from cholera. With reference to this outbreak of cholera, it was brought in by a newly-arrived batch of coolies, who were, on arriving at the garden, segregated, and all means taken by the manager to prevent communication with the other coolies. Unfortunately, in spite of this and the strict orders given by the manager, the sardár in charge of these coolies, under cover of night, slipped into his house, and spread the disease, he being taken ill with it himself and dying. Drinking-water is supplied by wells, which are protected, periodically cleaned, the mouths above the level (natural) of the surrounding country. There are of course various streams running down from the hills, and this water is used by the coolies for bathing and no doubt drinking. The general health and physique of the coolies is, on the whole, very good. About 5 per cent. are of inferior physique. None at present suffer with *anchylostomiasis*. *Thymol* and the general treatment recommended by Dr. Kynsey have been tried, but with no very marked success. No pernicious anæmia cases of a very marked type are at present noticeable.

"*Panicherra.—First half of 1889.—Free Labourers.*—Adults 2 : 1 dysentery, 1 bronchitis. Children : 2 fever, 2 dysentery, 2 infantile diseases (5 and 2 days old), 1 cholera, total 7.

"*Act Labourers.*—3 dysentery, 1 fever, 1 phthisis, 1 dropsy, total 6.

"*Second half of 1889.—Free Labourers.*—Adults : 1 cholera, 3 dysentery, 2 fever, total 6. Children : 4 cholera, 5 fever, 1 dysentery, total 10.

"*Act Labourers.*—1 cholera, 5 dysentery, total 6 Of the above 37 deaths, 17 have been amongst children, of which 5 were from cholera and 2 of infants a few days old.

"With regard to the adult deaths, there have been many from dysentery. I could find nothing to cause this in the site or position of the lines, and the water (drinking) is as good as it can be if the coolies will avail themselves of it.

"*Chandua.—First half of 1889.—Free Labourers.*—Six adults : 5 of cholera, 1 convulsions.

"*Act Coolies.*—Eight deaths : 1 dysentery, 1 fever, 1 dropsy, 5 cholera.

"*Second half.—Free Labourers.*—Eleven deaths : 1 bronchitis (adult), 2 dysentery, 3 dropsy, 2 convulsions. 1 bronchitis, 2 fever.

"*Act Labourers.*—Five deaths : 3 diarrhœa, 1 spleen, and 1 bronchitis.

"Like all other gardens in Cachar, this was visited by an outbreak of cholera, 10 deaths occurring from it. Amongst the children the mortality has been heavy amongst the infants of those bad batches of coolies previously reported on, many being due to the sickness of their mothers rendering them unfitted to take due and proper care of their offspring. There were 20 sick and debilitated coolies on day of inspection. Of these, I have recommended that 11 be discharged under Section 122 of Act I. as being unfit for labour. There is no European manager here now, but Mr. Whigham, of Chengeuri tea-estate, visits the garden once a week. The lines are now mostly situated on *tilas*, and consequently are dry and naturally well drained. They are well above the level of the surrounding country. No latrines. The objectionable tanks are prohibited from being used for drinking-purposes as far as possible. The wells ordered last year are made, and used by the coolies. They are sufficiently well protected. I do not, however, think that sufficient supplies of milk and hospital comforts are as well supplied as they should be, and gave directions that this should be done. Many of the coolies during the past year have been sent into the dispensary here (Silchar) for treatment, some recovered, but many others were released from their agreements and repatriated. Two died during the last half-year, 1 of spleen (fever) and 1 bronchitis. Many of the above were suffering from pernicious malarial anæmia. No cases of *anchylostomiasis* were found amongst those under treatment at the dispensary, though some showed signs of the disease, and were treated with *thymol*.

"*Nagadum.—First half.—Free Labourers.* Adults none. Children 9 : 1 cholera, 3 debility, 2 fever, 1 dysentery, 2 born dead.

"*Act Labourers.*—Thirteen : 3 dropsy, 2 fever, 2 diarrhœa, 1 cholera, 1 phthisis, 2 dysentery, 2 debility.

"*Second half.—Free Labourers.*—Fourteen : 3 fever, 1 cholera, 4 dysentery, 1 cholera, 3 dropsy, 2 born dead.

"*Act Labourers.*—Twelve : 2 fever, 2 dropsy, 7 dysentery, 1 drowned.

"Of the above there have been 4 infants returned born dead; also many of the deaths occurred in quite young children of a few weeks old. Two other infants died after the death of their mothers. Amongst the Act coolies, 5 deaths occurred among aged coolies of from so called 43 or 45, but of nearly or over 50 years of age up to 60 years. During the first half there were no deaths amongst adult free labourers, and in the second-half (adults) only three. This goes far to show that for originally healthy coolies the garden is

perfectly healthy. On the day of my visit there were but few sick, 12 in all, and these the remains of the bad batches of coolies previously received. There are no latrines Drainage is ample and good, both natural and artificial. Food-supplies are ample, and easily procurable at a neighbouring *hât*, where also are to be obtained vegetables according to season. All due care is taken to prevent, as far as is possible, the use of unripe fruit, rotten fish, &c., but not always with success. With regard to this latter point, I would call attention to the following:—

"There have been since the 1st January 14 deaths, *viz.*, amongst Act coolies 11, and amongst free labourers 3. Of these, 7, or half, are due to an attack of acute diarrhœa from eating poisonous fungi. The coolies rapidly became ill, poisoned by the fungi, and died in spite of treatment. Comment on the above is superfluous. "The water-supply is from wells, which are kept clean and well protected. A guard is kept on the river to prevent the use of the water, but not always successfully. The old coolies are a healthy, fine set of people, but seldom ill; the 12 sick were all new arrivals, milk, and suffering from debility, &c; soup, &c., is given to them by order of the medical man, and all is tried to improve their general health There have been cases of *anchylostomiasis*, and *thymol* has been of service in getting rid of the worms. Pernicious anæmia also has been present, but not due to the situation of the garden"

In forwarding the above two reports, Mr. Anderson, the Deputy-Commissioner, writes—

"These are practically the worst on our lists Both are small, badly-cleared private gardens working at a loss, as I understand. Both are badly situated as regards bazárs, both are unpopular and consequently apt to have coolies deserting. Hence, both are compelled to recruit, and new coolies never do well on such gardens. I shall call a committee on both gardens shortly. Chandua is badly drained, and there are no funds available to drain it properly. I am of opinion that the garden should, if possible, be closed.

"*Duarband—First half—Free Labourers.*—Adults 7 : 3 fever, 2 debility, 1 asthma, 1 dysentery. Children 9 : 2 cholera, 2 fever, 2 diarrhœa, 1 burns, 2 infantile diseases.

"*Act Coolies.*—Adults : none.

"*Second half.—Free Labourers.*—Adult 28 : 24 cholera, 3 dysentery, 1 diarrhœa Children 18 : 13 cholera, 2 fever, 1 dropsy, 1 dysentery, 1 infantile disease

"*Act Coolies.*—None. As will be seen from the above statement, cholera is answerable for 39 deaths out of the total number who died."

The Deputy-Commissioner adds—

"This is one of the oldest, best, and most popular gardens in the district. The manager lives on the garden simply because old habit has endeared the work to him. There is no recruiting; the coolies bring up their own friends; they are all practically free labourers. The military police outpost took cholera on to the garden, *i.e.*, I understand they were attacked before the coolies. The garden does not require special inspection. The manager does far more than we could expect or compel him to do. It is quite one of the best gardens in the district."

None of the Civil Surgeon's reports on the Hailákándi unhealthy gardens have been received.

The Deputy-Commissioner, Cachar, submits a second table, in which are shown gardens on which the mortality among Act labourers only exceeded 7 per cent The majority of these gardens may be classed as healthy, taking the mortality on the total population:—

	Mean strength		Deaths.			Ratio per mille			Deaths amongst Act labourers	
	First half year	Second half-year.	First half-year.	Second half year.	Total.	First half year.	Second half year.	Annual.	Number	Ratio per mille.
Majargram	518	523	8	12	20	15 4	22 9	38 3	10	96 1
Badlicherra	600	593	15	20	35	25 0	33 7	58 7	10	95 7
Chandighat	651	658	17	13	30	25 9	19 9	45 8	15	84 9
Upper and Lower Tikalpar	1,498	1,490	55	32	87	36·7	21·4	58 1	37	104 2
Pathimara and two out-gardens	877	970	37	21	58	42 1	21 6	63 8	16	152 4
Marthicherra	923	900	12	15	27	13 0	16 6	29·6	16	70 1
Barajalinga	1,715	1,754	35	46	81	20 4	26·2	46 6	35	280 5
Pathicherra	901	933	15	41	56	16 6	43 9	60 5	42	167 1

* Majargram was on the unhealthy list last year. As regards the Pathimara garden, the Civil Surgeon writes—

"The majority of the deaths amongst Act coolies occurred in newly-imported coolies of 1888 and 1889, all bad types of Bengali coolies, and the children of these coolies. I saw Dr. Cowan, the medical officer of the garden, and he tells me that many cases of dysentery and diarrhœa returned so are really due to *anchylostomiasis* and the fatal effects of malarial poisoning, but to which the new name of *kála-azár* is given. The ordinary Native Doctor is not yet educated to the long name of the former disease, and does not grasp it or that of *kála-azár*, and prefers to enter the leading symptom of the disease, such as dysentery, diarrhœa, dropsy. *Thymol* has been used and successfully, but often the worms after a time return, and the patient sinks from exhaustion in spite of treatment and good diet."

On the Pathicherra garden 27 of the deaths were due to cholera. In his report on the Barajalinga garden, the Civil Surgeon says that bowel-complaints were very prevalent, but almost entirely amongst new coolies and their children. He thinks that the coolies from Manbhum, Gaya, Ghazipur, and Shahabad are unfitted for such a garden, and states that the manager has agreed not to import this class of coolies in future. The sanitary arrangements seem to be satisfactory.

The inspection reports of 7 gardens, including the notoriously unhealthy gardens of Baladhan and Dhubidar, have not yet been received. In the case of the majority of these reports, the inspections made by the Civil Surgeon appear to the Chief Commissioner to have been perfunctory and inadequate. The remaining reports for the sadr sub-division are awaited, and the case of the unhealthy gardens in the Hailákándi sub-division will be further considered by the Chief Commissioner on receipt of the Civil Surgeon's inspection reports.

Unhealthy gardens in Sylhet

42. There were ten unhealthy gardens in Sylhet, against four in the previous year:—

Sub-division.	Name of garden	Mean strength.		Deaths			Ratio per mille.			Deaths among Act labourers.	
		First half year.	Second half-year.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Total	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Annual.	Number.	Ratio per mille
North Sylhet.	Barjáncherra	440	460	42	10	52	95 3	21 7	117 0	4	39 2
	Kewacherra	245	283	24	4	28	97 9	14 1	112 0	3	181 8
	Chiknagul	280	262	8	20	28	28 5	76 3	104 8	...	...
South Sylhet.	Indesvar	400	333	21	8	29	52 5	24·0	76 5	13	209·6
	Rájghát	1,395	1,696	83	31	114	59·4	18 2	77 6	74	152 8
	Kajuricherra	1,560	1,863	71	61	132	45 5	32·7	78·2	69	110 7
	Rangicherra	101	125	5	8	13	49 5	64 0	113 5	...	...
Karimganj	Shabajpur	584	619	41	18	59	70 2	29·0	99·2	21	135 6
	Dakingul	354	373	25	4	29	70·6	10·7	81 3	16	156 7
	Tarvincherra	244	452	...	82	82	...	181 4	181·4	...	...
	Total of unhealthy gardens...	5,603	6,466	390	246	566	57 1	38·0	95·1	...	...
	Total of district.....	73,559	78,576	1,452	1,422	2,674	19 7	18 0	37 8	...	...
	Balance, *i.e.*, healthy gardens.	67,956	72,110	1,132	1,176	2,308	16 6	16 3	32·9	...	...

The following table shows the causes of the deaths:—

Sub-division.	Name of garden.	Cholera.	Dysentery.	Fever.	Dropsy.	Anæmia.	Other causes.	Total.
North Sylhet	Barjancherra	27	5	3	4	...	13	52
	Kewacherra	23	1	3	...	...	1	28
	Chiknagul	5	4	7	...	...	12	28
South Sylhet	Indesvar	19	2	1	1	...	6	29
	Rájghát	68	7	4	1	2	32	114
	Kajuricherra	46	24	8	15	...	39	132
	Rangicherra	3	2	5	...	...	3	13
Karimganj	Shabajpur	25	15	5	...	...	14	59
	Dakhingul	15	8	1	1	...	4	29
	Tarvincherra	...	16	34	7	1	24	82
	Total	231	84	71	29	3	148	566

Three of the above gardens, *viz.*, Chicknagul, Rangicherra, and Tarvincherra, employ no Act labourers, while the Act mortality on Barjancherra and Kewacherra was very small. All the gardens have been inspected by the Civil Surgeon, whose reports are full. The following extracts are taken from his reports:—

Barjancherra.—(Inspected on the 19th May 1890):—

"Cholera caused directly 25 deaths, and was probably the indirect cause of other six deaths. In the latter cases the patients (children in each case) recovered, but were left weakly and in a bad state of health, and subsequently succumbed, 3 to dysentery, 1 to diarrhœa, 1 to dyspepsia, and 1 to convulsions. Excluding the epidemic of cholera, the death-rate of the garden cannot be said to have been particularly high, especially when the general unhealthiness of the year is taken into consideration. The mortality was less severe on the contract coolies than on the free labourers, which is very uncommon. This is partly accounted for by the fact that a good many of the cases of cholera occurred among newly-arrived coolies who would otherwise have been soon taken on contract."

Kewacherra.—(Date of inspection not given):—

"The unhealthiness was due to a severe epidemic of cholera in March, which caused 23 out of a total of 28 deaths. The remainder of the deaths were caused as follows:—

Adults—	Children—
Dropsy 1	Fever 2.
	Convulsions 1.
	Dysentery 1.

"Cholera appeared on the garden on March 8th. It was supposed that the disease was brought from Sylhet, where it was prevalent at the time."

Chiknagul.—(Date of inspection not given):—

"There was no disease which can be said to have been very prevalent. * * * I do not consider the water-supply at all a good one. It is to a considerable extent from a small stream which runs through the *nulla* which passes by the lines situated on the side of the neighbouring *tilas*."

The manager has been directed to make proper wells.

Indesvar.—(Inspected on the 24th March 1890):—

"Of the total number of deaths, 19 were caused by cholera which particularly affected the contract coolies. Excluding cholera, the death-rate was small and was due to the ordinary causes of disease. * * * The lines are well situated and well drained naturally. But there is a *nalla* close by with running water in it, which the coolies are said to be very fond of drinking from. This should be carefully watched in cholera times, and, if necessary, a chaukidár put on to see that the water is not drunk."

The three gardens of Rajghát, Kajuricherra, and Rangicherra are situated close to one another. They were inspected by the Civil Surgeon on the 29th and 30th March 1890:—

"*Rajghát.*—The death-rate from cholera was 61 per cent. of the total number of deaths. * * * From the history of the disease, as far as I can find out, the disease was imported by a large batch of Uriya coolies landed at Madna, who proceeded by road to South Sylhet. On the steamer there appear to have been several deaths, and one occurred between Madna and Habiganj. Under these circumstances, it would have been advisable to have stopped these coolies at the depôt at Habiganj, but they were at this time non-Act coolies (though subsequently put under contract on the garden), and some difficulty seems to have been experienced, so that only a few were stopped. In the country on the way, and especially near Madna, cholera was very prevalent at this time and it is only according to the usual experience of cholera that those passing through an infected country should be attacked."

These remarks apply equally to the Kajuricherra and Rangicherra gardens.

Of Kajuricherra, the Sub-divisional Officer writes—

"Deaths occurred principally among the new arrivals, and I particularly noticed, while inspecting, the number of aged people whose deaths were noticed in the register."

The following remarks of the Civil Surgeon are interesting:—

"As regards anæmia, I found it to be common on all the three gardens (Rajghát, Kajuricherra, and Fuskuri). It appeared to be considered as due to the results of malarial influence; but from the history of many of the cases, and from the absence of the symptoms of chronic malarial poisoning, I have little doubt that many cases are really due to the presence of the intestinal parasite, the *anchylostoma duodenalis*."

Shabajpur.—Inspected on 20th June 1890):—

"Of the 59 deaths, 25 were due to cholera purely. Of the 7 deaths among Act-I. coolies from dysentery and diarrhœa, six had suffered from cholera, and had never thoroughly recovered. Excluding cholera, the mortality was by no means high."

Dakhingul.—Inspected on the same day:—

"The cause of the large mortality last year was cholera chiefly. The total number of Act-I. coolies reported to have died from cholera was only 9, but, on enquiry, I found that of five cases entered in the books as dysentery, four were originally cases of cholera."

The Deputy-Commissioner remarks—

"The outbreak of cholera seems to have been accidental, being partly a result of the cholera wave of last year, partly of direct introduction by a cholera-infected batch of coolies"

The case of Tarvincherra is entirely different The Civil Surgeon remarks—

"I attribute the large death-rate to the local climatic influences usually designated malaria. The majority of the deaths, those from fever, dropsy, debility, diarrhœa, and dysentery, are usually produced by malaria, which originates in the belt of land at the foot of the hills within which the lines of the coolies are situated. It has on various occasions been found in this district, and on this garden, on nearly the present site, that there is a certain well-defined tract of country close to the hills which is extremely unhealthy."

The Deputy-Commissioner has since reported that the site of the lines has been removed to a place approved by the Civil Surgeon.

Unhealthy gardens in Kámrúp

43. One of the gardens which were unhealthy in Kámrúp in 1888 appears as unhealthy in 1889 also:—

Name of garden.	Mean strength.		Deaths.			Ratio per mille.			Deaths among Act labourers.	
	First half year.	Second half-year.	First half year.	Second half year.	Total.	First half-year.	Second half year.	Annual	Number.	Ratio per mille.
Chunsali ...	421	463	25	17	42	59·3	36 7	96 0	12	87·3
Total of unhealthy gardens ...	421	468	25	17	42	59 3	36 7	96 0	12	87 3
Total of district ...	3,069	3,306	96	86	182	31·3	26 0	57 3	..	...
Balance, *i.e.*, healthy gardens ...	2,648	2,843	71	69	140	26·8	24 3	51 1	...	...

The causes of death were—

Name of garden.	Cholera.	Dysentery.	Fever.	Dropsy.	Anæmia	Other causes.	Total
Chunsali ...	1	4	3	5	23	6	42

This garden does not employ Act labour The most noticeable point in the above table is the large number of deaths attributed to anæmia. The Civil Surgeon inspected the garden on June 12th, 1890, and states that the deaths put down as due to anæmia are really due to the disease locally called *kála-azár*. He found nothing defective in the sanitary arrangements, but many of the coolies were suffering from *kála-azár* symptoms. The Civil Surgeon thinks, however, that a very large proportion would be cured if taken in time and energetically treated.

Unhealthy gardens in Darrang.

44. No less than 21 gardens are returned as unhealthy for Darrang, against 12 in the previous year :—

Sub-division.	Name of garden.	Mean strength.		Deaths.			Ratio per mille.			Deaths among Act labourers.	
		First-half year.	Second half year.	First half year.	Second half-year.	Total.	First half year.	Second half year	Annual.	Number.	Ratio per mille
Sadi.	Kathalguri ...	704	709	19	17	36	26 9	23 9	50·8	23	98 3
	Nahorani ...	746	808	27	20	47	36·1	24 7	60 8	39	86 9
	Ghoirally ...	200	271	12	15	27	60 1	55 3	115 3	17	174 6
	Dhekiajuli ...	432	409	13	11	24	30 0	26 8	59 8	18	74 2
	Sakomatha ...	358	345	10	10	20	27 9	28 9	56·8	14	94·7
	Gellahating ..	433	460	9	37	46	20 7	80 4	101 1	22	116·2
	Ghilladhari . .	777	539	14	30	44	18 0	55 6	73 6	32	121 8
	Borgong ...	416	398	10	19	29	24 0	47 7	71·7	21	152 8
	Dikorai ..	1,517	1,515	35	46	81	23 0	29·7	52·7	40	76 5
	Pabhoi ...	767	816	23	21	44	29 9	25·7	55 6	33	116 0
	Behali ...	639	628	25	13	38	39 1	20 6	59 7	21	92 8
	Kalapani ...	772	797	24	32	56	31 0	40 1	71·1	34	88 6
	Sonajuli ...	577	772	17	24	41	29 4	31·0	60·4	29	92 7
	Belsiri ...	180	188	31	...	31	172 2	...	172 2	18	666·6
	Bheer ...	47	41	12	1	13	255·3	24·3	279 6	...	...

Sub-division.	Name of garden.	Mean strength.		Deaths.			Ratio per mille.			Deaths among Act labourers.	
		First half-year.	Second half-year.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Total.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Annual.	Number.	Ratio per mille.
Mangaldai.	Penery and Kossubhil.	1,090	1,121	27	16	43	24·7	14·2	38·9	39	81·3
	Kherkheria ...	733	734	17	29	46	28·1	39·5	62·6	27	83·3
	Ghograpara ...	513	497	25	8	33	48·7	16·0	64·7	24	95·4
	Rontholi ...	216	196	52	16	68	240 7	81·6	322·3	54	516·5
	Tokonkata ...	157	158	14	2	16	89·1	12 6	101·7	2	160·2
	Bhergaon ...	237	233	8	9	17	33·7	38·6	72·3	...	...
	Total of unhealthy gardens.	11,511	11,660	424	376	800	35·9	32·6	68·5	...	...
	Total of district.	39,389	41,238	896	840	1,736	22·7	20·4	43·1	...	...
	Balance, *i.e.*, healthy gardens.	27,878	29,578	472	464	936	16·9	15·6	32·5	...	...

The causes of deaths on each garden are shown in the following table :—

Sub-division.	Name of garden.	Cholera.	Dysentery.	Fever.	Dropsy.	Anæmia.	Other causes.	Total.
Sadr	Kathalguri ...	9	4	8	7	4	9	36
	Nahorani ...	1	22	...	8	4	17	47
	Ghoirally ...	2	7	...	2	...	16	27
	Dhekiajuli ...	...	12	2	2	3	5	24
	Sakomatha ...	1	7	3	1	2	6	20
	Gellahating ...	3	17	1	11	1	13	46
	Ghilladhari ...	7	21	2	...	8	6	44
	Bargong ...	2	7	1	5	1	13	29
	Dikorai ...	18	7	6	4	23	23	81
	Pabhoi ...	23	4	1	2	4	10	44
	Behali ...	16	5	2	6	4	5	38
	Kalapani ...	9	27	7	5	1	7	56
	Sonajuli ...	7	20	2	2	2	8	41
	Belsiri ...	31	...	...	...	...	...	31
	Bheer ...	12	...	...	...	...	1	13
Mangaldai ...	Penery and Kossubhil.	28	7	...	4	...	4	43
	Kherkheria ...	29	5	3	2	3	4	46
	Ghograpara ...	21	3	2	2	...	5	33
	Rontholi ...	40	8	3	4	...	13	68
	Tokonkata ...	13	1	1	1	...	...	16
	Bhergaon ...	3	1	2	2	...	9	17
		275	185	41	65	60	174	800

Darrang continues to bear the unenviable position of having proportionately the highest number of unhealthy gardens in Assam. They were all inspected by the Civil Surgeon.

The unhealthiness in the Mangaldai sub-division is due, with a single exception, to cholera, this disease being the cause of considerably more than 50 per cent. of the deaths. In the sadr sub-division, however, cholera was severe only on four gardens. Of the gardens in the list, Nahorani, Gellahating, Behali, and Tokonkata appeared as unhealthy in the two previous years, and Dhekiajuli, Ghilladhari, Borgong, and Dikorai appeared on the unhealthy list last year.

The following extracts are taken from the remarks made by the Civil Surgeon in the course of his inspections :—

Kathalguri.—Inspected on the 23rd March 1890:—

"Lines are irregularly built on low plinths, with enclosures intended for vegetable gardens, but they are full of rubbish * * * From the entry of diseases and their treatment in the sick register, the Doctor Babu is not a competent person to take charge of so large a labour force. * *

"Recommendations:—1. The coolie lines ought to be erected in lines, on raised plinths and with good effective drainage.

"2. Covered *pucca* wells with pumps and cisterns ought to be introduced, and the private wells filled up.

"3. A good hospital with *pucca* floor in a good site is urgently needed.

"4. A qualified medical man ought to be entertained."

With regard to *Nahorani*, the Deputy-Commissioner writes—

"It was inspected by the Civil Surgeon on 29th May 1889, and I specially inspected it on the 10th August. A committee was held on this garden on the 30th November 1889. The coolies were suffering chiefly from anæmia, they had been almost all recruited by contractors, and were of markedly poor physique. The committee recommended that the lines should be entirely removed to a new site, which was specially approved of, and that anæmia cases should be regularly inspected and segregated."

The Chief Commissioner has ordered further enquiries to be made as to whether these recommendations were fully carried out.

Ghoirally.—Inspected on the 7th April 1890—

"In 1889, there were 26 deaths and not 27 as shown in the half-yearly returns. They were distributed as follows:—

	Act.	Non-Act.
Dysentery	7	2
Debility	7	7
Dropsy	1	...
Pneumonia	1	...
Miscarriage	1	...
	17	9

"The high mortality among Act coolies was due to a bad batch of coolies, who were landed here in indifferent health. * * The old houses, which were built without any system and in disregard of sanitary rules, are pulled down, and new ones built in a semi-detached form in the same site with proper drains. I anticipate better results when all the lines are finished and wells completed."

Dhekiajuli.—Inspected on the 10th April 1890—

"The chief causes of mortality were dysentery 12, anæmia 3, dropsy 2, and fever 2, other diseases contributing the rest. They mostly occurred among *arkati* coolies, and 2 were deserters from other gardens, ill on arrival. Recommendations of last inspection are carried out gradually."

Sakomatha.—Inspected on the 18th March 1890:—

"In 1889 there were 14 and 1 deaths among Act and non-Act coolies. Anæmia and dysentery contribute two-thirds of the mortality. The recommendations of the committee of the 15th August 1887 are carried out."

Gellahating.—Inspected on the 20th March 1890—

"The deaths from dysentery, diarrhœa, dropsy, debility, and anæmia were 34 out of 45. Although returned under these different headings, I am led to believe that the main cause of death was anæmia. This garden was unhealthy for the past three years, for which a committee was held in December last. As the recommendations made by the committee will soon be carried out, I need not proceed to point out the sanitary defects any further."

Ghilladhari.—Inspected on the 18th March 1890:—

"During the year 1889 among the whole labour force, 676, there were 44 deaths, being at the ratio of 10·66 and 3·19 among the Act and non-Act coolies respectively. The largest number died from cholera and bowel-complaints, especially dysentery. I am led to believe that anæmia (*anchylostomiasis*) is the source of all the deaths returned as dysentery and dropsy. A great many coolies (imported) are of poor physique, and showed signs of anæmia. The minor sanitary defects are being remedied and the new lines are being pushed on."

Borgong.—Inspected on the 15th March 1890:—

"This garden is on the black list for the past two years, and the recommendations made in my last inspection report of the 25th May 1889 are not fully carried out. But evidently there is a great deal of improvement in the sanitary state of the garden, *i.e.*, clearing the jungle, building new set of lines in continuation of the old ones, &c. Dr. Ainsworth is taking every step in order to lessen the mortality."

This garden should be inspected again during the rains, when it will be seen whether it is necessary to hold a committee on it.

Dikorai.—This garden was inspected by Dr. Borah on the 22nd May 1889 and 19th March 1890. His remarks in the latter inspection were as follows :—

"The percentage (of deaths) among the non-Act coolies is very low. The garden, as a whole, is a healthy one. Sanitary arrangements are good."

Pabhoi.—Inspected on the 17th March 1890—

"The high mortality was due to cholera, which occurred among newly imported coolies and carried off 24 souls."

Behali.—The Deputy-Commissioner writes—

"Behali has been returned as unhealthy since 1887. It was inspected by the Civil Surgeon on the 25th May 1889, 7th November 1889, and 14th March 1890. His remarks on the inspection report of the 14th March 1890 were as follows:—

"Out of the 38 deaths, 16 are accounted for by cholera, which was brought in by the new batch of imported coolies, hence the high mortality. Since my inspection in May last the sanitary improvements on the garden are well marked, and all the recommendations made therein have been carried out by the manager."

Kalapani—Inspected by the Civil Surgeon on the 16th March 1890:—

"The imported coolies, as a rule, are of poor physique, and suffering more or less from anæmia symptoms. The same remarks are applicable to this garden as to Ghilladhari."

Sonajuli.—Inspected on the 22nd November 1889—

"The high death-ratio was due to cholera, which was brought into the garden by a new batch of coolies who arrived in April 1889."

Belsiri.—Inspected on the 24th November 1889—

"In 1888 there was no death. In 1889 there were 31 deaths from cholera, all among the Act coolies. The epidemic was brought in by the imported coolies. There was no death from other causes, and hitherto the garden was very healthy."

Bheer.—Inspected on the 7th March 1890—

"Twelve death out of the 13 recorded were due to cholera."

Penery ana Kosubhil.—Inspected on the 16th April 1890—

"In 1889 there were 43 deaths out of the garden population of 1,100 (Act 473 and non-Act 627), of which 28 were from cholera, hence the high mortality. It was brought into the garden from the steamer ghat by the newly-imported coolies in April and May. The lines are detached, built on raised plinths in long rows, with good drainage. There were two *pucca* wells. Besides these, the Hograjan supplies good water both for drinking and bathing purposes.* * * * The water is not liable to contamination, having no villages higher up.* * * * The physique of the coolies is generally good."

Ghograpara.—Inspected on the 17th April 1890—

"In 1889 out of a population of 509 (Act 261 and non-Act 248), there were 33 deaths, of which cholera returned 21, leaving only 12 deaths to account for from other causes. The high mortality was, therefore, due to cholera epidemic, which was first imported into the garden by a newly-imported batch of coolies, who arrived at the segregation huts in the beginning of April."

Kherkheria is an out-garden of Ghograpara—

"Water-supply, both for drinking and bathing purposes, is from the Lukhini stream and springs. Water very good. The garden hitherto was a healthy one. During last year (1889) the high mortality was due to cholera. Out of 46 deaths, 29 were from cholera."

Rontholi.—Inspected on the 14th February 1890—

"There were 71 deaths (Act 54 and non-Act 17 during 1889, of which 40 deaths were from cholera, which was brought into the garden by the newly-imported coolies, and which reigned in an epidemic form in April, May, and June Apart from cholera, the garden seems to me not a healthy one. The old lines are in a low waterlogged site. * * * * The drinking-water is very defective. There is a tank full of vegetable growth. * * * * No attempt is made yet to sink any well, though the inspecting officer recommended it * * * * *

"Recommendations—

"(1) The jungle round the new lines should be cleared.
"(2) A *pucca* well with pump and cistern should be made.
"(3) A qualified native doctor should be entertained.
"(4) The existing tank should be thoroughly cleaned, and utilised for bathing purposes only.
"(5) It would be also convenient for the coolies if a good road were made to the Kulsi stream."

Tokonkata.—Inspected on the 13th February 1890 :—

"The garden is a small one, worked by 11 Act and 162 non-Act coolies. No wells, but the river Digoy is used for both drinking and bathing purposes. No hospital nor Doctor Babu, nor qualified compounder attached to the garden. The high death-rate was accounted for by having 13 deaths from cholera out of 16."

Bhergaon.— Inspected on the 17th February 1890—

"The lines are clean, on raised plinths with *kutcha* brick and mud walls. The Lothai stream is used for drinking and bathing purposes. The drinking-water taken from it above the Barbandh is good in the cold weather, but in the rains liable to contamination. No wells. * * * * There is a hospital, and the Doctor Babu is attentive and painstaking, and I did not notice any marked sanitary defects except that wells might, with advantage, be sunk for drinking-water, especially during the rains when the water gets muddy."

Unhealthy gardens in Nowgong

45. The number of unhealthy gardens in Nowgong increased from two to six during last year :—

Name of garden.	Mean strength.		Deaths.			Ratio per mille.			Deaths among Act labourers.	
	First half-year.	Second half-year.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Total.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Annual.	Number.	Ratio per mille.
Amlokhi	1,079	1,163	52	43	95	48·2	36·9	85·1	50	165·5
Sonajuri.....	98	119	6	14	20	61·2	132·7	193·9	7	158·1
Haspani.....	556	511	22	22	44	39·6	43·0	82·6	19	117·8
Culikusi..	310	218	9	9	18	29·0	41·0	70·0	...	...
Owguri	156	156	3	8	11	19·2	51 2	70·4	5	84·4
Siconi..... ...	424	442	12	28	40	28·3	63·2	91·5	16	179·1
Total of unhealthy gardens.	2,623	2,609	104	124	228	39 6	47·5	87·1	...	...
Total of district	14,121	14,436	272	324	596	19 2	22·4	41·6	...	
Balance, *i.e.*, healthy gardens.	11,498	11,827	168	200	368	14·6	16·8	31·4	...	...

One garden (Culikusi, employs only 13 Act labourers, and is very near the healthy margin, while all the others were brought into the unhealthy list owing to the high mortality among Act labourers.

The following table gives the causes of the deaths:—

Name of garden.	Cholera.	Dysentery.	Fever.	Dropsy.	Anæmia	Other causes.	Total.
Amlokhi	68	7	2	5	4	9	95
Sonajuri	1	3	...	3	..	13	20
Haspani	6	10	3	6	...	19	44
Culikusi	3	...	5	1	1	8	18
Owguri.....	...	6	...	...	3	2	11
Siconi	28	3	4	1	...	4	40
Total	106	29	14	16	8	55	228

The unhealthiness of Amlokhi and Siconi was entirely due to cholera. Owguri was on the unhealthy list last year All these gardens were inspected by Dr. McNaught, the Civil Medical Officer of the district, whose reports are extremely full and interesting.

The following extracts are quoted from Dr. McNaught's reports :—

"*Amlokhi* (inspected on the 6th July 1889).—The mortality has been considerable, comprising since 28th May (the date of the cholera outbreak to 6th July 1889)—

	Act.	Non-Act.	Total.
Cholera	23	31	54
Dysentery	3	1	4
Other diseases	...	2	2
Total			60

"While from 1st January 1889 to 27th May 1889 the mortality registered was—

	Act.	Non-Act.	Total.
Cholera	3	1	4
Dysentery	..	1	1
Other diseases	1	2	3
Total			8

* * * *

"The present outbreak (of cholera) is stated to have commenced on the 28th May 1889, in the person of a coolie, who had been on the garden for many years. He was the cook to the batch on the garden, where the weak and sickly coolies were fed; his occupation, as such, leads to an impression that he may have been a means of extending the disease in the lines."

The Civil Medical Officer made a second thorough inspection on the 18th August 1889, when he found that cholera had disappeared. He writes—

"The persistent attack (of cholera) over such a lengthened period, 62 days, is unusual, and had it been possible to effect the early removal and segregation of the whole of the families first attacked in a new well-appointed camp, or the complete vacation of the lines after the epidemic was showing its extensive distribution and virulence, I have no doubt that the mortality would not have been so great. * * * From the 28th May 1889 to the 6th July 1889 out of the 44 deaths amongst Bengalis (*i.e.*, imported coolies), 19 of the persons arrived on the garden in 1889, *i.e.*, 2 in January, 13 in February, and 4 in March. 9 arrived during 1888, 6 during 1887, and 10 before 1887."

The Deputy-Commissioner was present with the Civil Medical Officer at the inspection, and recorded the following remarks:—

"Dr. McNaught, who accompanies me to-day, reports the following of his recommendations not to have been carried out:—

"(1) The huts have not been washed inside with lime.

"(2) The surface round the huts was not scraped to the depth of two inches, and the scrapings after being thoroughly disinfected, buried with quicklime.

"The manager explained that quicklime was not at present procurable, but he should procure it at the first opportunity. Both existing wells should be fitted with reservoirs and thatched roofs put over them. Temporary huts shoud be kept in readiness for purposes of segregation. Dr. McNaught thinks the old lines too old, *i.e.*, in occupation for too many years, and possibly might advantageously be thinned out."

Sonajuri.—The Deputy-Commissioner, who inspected on the 6th October 1889, writes:—

"Clearly new coolies should not be located on this garden. The manager will be requested to communicate these remarks to the proprietor, and to prevent new coolies being brought to this garden during the ensuing season."

Of *Haspani*, the Deputy-Commissioner remarked on the 15th August 1889—

"Deducting the 7 deaths from cholera, the death-rate among Act coolies would be a small fraction over 7 per cent. for the 15 months since last inspection."

Both the above gardens are under one management. They were fully inspected by the Civil Medical Officer on the 29th and 30th May 1890, who wrote—

"The whole of the coolies of the Sonajuri garden have been amalgamated with those of Haspani and the Sonajuri lines have been vacated. * * * * On the whole, the health generally and physique of the coolies are good, though there are many labouring under the effects of influenza. I am told that a number of persons who were suffering from *beri-beri* had been treated by *thymol*, and the hotel system of feeding. * * * * The mortality is attributed in a great measure to the importation of batches of coolies that were of inferior physique and unsuited to the Assam climate."

Culikusi was inspected on the 27th March 1890 by the Civil Medical Officer, who remarks—

"The lines are being partly reconstructed, largely repaired, and some new houses are being built. A *pucca* well is being made at one end of the lines. The improvements now going on since the change of management should materially help to lessen the sickness and death-rate, which is not excessive."

Owguri. The Civil Medical Officer inspected this garden on the 25th June 1889, and again on the 29th March 1890. In his later report he remarks -

"Since last inspection the old houses have been completely burnt down, and the opportunity has been taken by the manager to have the houses reconstructed on a better plan with more raised plinths and more regularly arranged. The work is still going on, but will soon be completed. The new

arrangements should prove beneficial. * * * * A new well on a suitable site convenient for the new huts has been sunk. It is reported that an iron cistern and pump have been indented for from Calcutta. The manager should be asked to complete the well and supply the fittings as soon as possible. He should also be asked to afford every encouragement for the coolies to use it."

Siconi.—The Deputy-Commissioner writes—

"This garden appears on the unhealthy lists of 1883, 1884, and 1885; since then it has much improved. The deaths on this garden were chiefly from cholera. If the cholera deaths are excluded, the death-rate will be found to be very small. I visited this garden on the 16th December 1889. The number of deaths I then found were 18 and 29 on an average number of 75 and 350 souls. Of these 18 deaths among Act coolies, 13 were from cholera."

The Civil Medical Officer, who inspected the garden on the 15th and 16th April 1890, made the following remarks :—

"The mortality during the past year was principally caused by an epidemic of cholera occurring in July 1889. Of the Act persons who died from cholera, five arrived on the garden in 1889."

In forwarding these reports the Commissioner of the Assam Valley Districts remarks—

"The Diju Valley gardens no longer appear on the unhealthy list. The history of these gardens proves what can be done by persistent efforts to improve the coolies' health."

Unhealthy gardens in Sibságar

46. In the Sibságar district 33 unhealthy gardens appear on the list, against 21 in the previous year :—

Sub division.	Name of garden.	Mean strength.		Deaths.			Ratio per mille.			Deaths among Act labourers.	
		First half-year.	Second half-year.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Total.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Annual.	Number.	Ratio per mille.
Sadr ...	Kanubari	179	194	5	10	15	27·9	51·5	79 4	11	93·3
	Banfera	464	563	14	27	41	30·1	47 9	78 0	24	73·6
	Teok	396	414	10	21	31	25·2	50·7	75 9	12	57·8
	Sonari	581	605	23	27	50	39·5	44·6	84 1	16	56 5
	Napuk	658	770	23	70	93	34 9	90 9	125 8	62	117·0
	Domerdalang	758	778	30	26	56	39·5	33·4	72 9	34	74 0
	Muthrapur	514	590	21	21	42	40·8	35·5	76·3	34	87 8
	Dimonbari	79	81	16	1	17	202·5	12·3	214·8	3	333·3
	Joboka.	480	524	26	33	59	54 1	62·9	117·0	31	92·6
	Rajmai.....	460	521	28	29	57	60·8	55·6	116·4	57	116·4
	Monkunti.....	278	276	16	4	20	57·5	14·4	71·9	20	71·9
	Nahorhabi	532	555	21	26	47	39·4	46·8	86 2	18	44 3
	Taukak	354	400	11	19	30	31·0	47·5	78·5	30	78·5
	Borsilla	258	296	23	5	28	89·1	16·8	105 9	28	105 9
Jorhát ...	Katalguri	778	807	45	18	63	57 8	22·3	80·1	30	104·9
	Mazenga	388	413	21	13	34	54·1	31·4	85·5	21	87·8
	Mohima	293	318	20	5	25	68·2	15 7	83·9	13	255·4
	Dhekiajuli	597	623	18	25	43	30·1	40·1	70·2	31	92 1
	Soicatta	616	668	14	35	49	22·5	52 5	75·0	27	60·1
	Barhalla	1,083	1,070	67	22	89	61·8	20·5	82·3	...	.....
	Bhelugumi.....	174	156	4	8	12	22·9	51 3	74·2	10	5·8
	Mariani.....	295	365	17	12	29	57 6	32 8	90 4	...	.....
	Jitukia	359	314	11	13	24	30·6	41·4	72·0	...	.....
	Khotikotia	366	378	16	13	29	43·7	34·2	77·9	...	.. ...
	Daklangia	160	195	4	11	15	25·0	56·4	81·4	...	.....
Golághát...	Dhansiri	648	694	33	71	104	50·9	102·3	153·2	77	185 5
	Bihora	333	369	13	24	37	39·0	65·0	104·0	23	142 1
	Diffln	141	175	8	12	20	56 7	68·5	125·2	20	125·2
	Deering	291	320	29	27	56	99·6	84·3	183·9	30	455·0
	Hatikuli	160	215	8	12	20	50·0	55·8	105·8	20	105 8
	Halmira	160	156	2	9	11	12 5	57 6	70 1	11	70 1
	Khumtai	180	181	27	8	35	143 6	44 1	187·7	35	187 7
	Dakhmhengra	277	311	7	14	21	25·2	45·0	70·2	3	12·3
	Total of unhealthy gardens.	13,290	14,295	631	671	1,302	47 4	46·9	94·3	...	.....
	Total of district ...	85,716	89,616	1,693	1,991	3,684	19·7	22·2	41·9	..	.....
	Balance, *i.e.*, healthy gardens.	72,426	75,321	1,062	1,320	2,382	14·6	17·5	32·1	...	.....

The causes of deaths at each garden are shown in the following table :—

Sub-division.	Name of garden.	Cholera.	Dysentery.	Fever	Dropsy.	Anæmia.	Other causes.	Total.
Sadr	Kanubari	5	5	1	1	...	3	15
	Banfera	1	6	2	2	1	29	41
	Teok	3	11	1	3	1	12	31
	Sonari	6	19	3	6	1	15	50
	Napuk	6	34	15	...	17	21	93
	Domerdalang	14	9	5	6	7	15	56
	Muthiapur	15	19	1	2	...	5	42
	Dimonbari	14	1	...	..	..	2	17
	Joboka	8	16	4	4	3	24	59
	Rajmai	24	19	6	...	4	4	57
	Mohkunti	7	1	...	...	1	11	20
	Nahorhabi	11	11	11	4	...	10	47
	Taukak	1	16	1	...	4	8	30
	Borsilla	14	12	...	...	1	1	28
Jorhát	Katalguri	28	14	4	5	2	10	63
	Mazenga	6	11	6	4	...	7	34
	Mohima	17	1	2	2	..	3	25
	Dhekiajuli	9	10	4	7	1	12	43
	Soicatta	6	25	6	1	2	9	49
	Barhalla	61	1	4	...	...	23	89
	Bheluguri	2	2	...	...	5	3	12
	Mariani	23	6	...	...	...	...	29
	Jitukia	8	3	1	...	...	12	24
	Khorikotia	11	5	...	3	...	10	29
Golághát	Daklangia	4	3	2	2	...	4	15
	Dhansiri	12	32	1	2	2	55	104
	Bihora	...	8	5	1	...	23	37
	Diffln	4	5	...	...	...	11	20
	Deering	24	15	...	3	...	14	56
	Hatikuli	3	6	...	...	...	11	20
	Halmira	...	2	1	...	...	8	11
	Khuntai	26	9	...	...	...	...	35
	Dakhinhengra	3	5	1	1	..	11	21
	Total	376	342	87	59	52	386	1,302

The Deputy Commissioner explains that these tables include all gardens showing a mortality of over 7 per cent., either among the Act coolies or among the non-Act coolies provided that the number of deaths in either case exceeded 10. If the percentage were calculated on the total labour force, the number of unhealthy gardens would be reduced to 18. Again, if cholera were excluded, the list would be further reduced to 7, *viz.*,—

	Death-rate.
Banfera	77·9
Sonari	74·1
Napuk	121·8
Joboka	101·5
Dhansiri	137·1
Bihora	104·0
Deering	101·9

Of the gardens in the above lists, Jitukia was unhealthy in 1886, Dhansiri in 1886 and 1887, Banfera in 1887, and the following gardens in 1888, *viz.*, Taukak, Teok, Borsilla, Bheluguri, Mariani, Mazenga, Bihora. Of these 10 gardens, which appear on the unhealthy list a second time, 7 owe their high mortality to cholera. With the exception of five, *viz.*, Domerdalang, Mohkunti, Borsilla, Barhalla and Khuntai, all these gardens have been inspected by the Civil Surgeon, and the following remarks are extracted from his reports :—

Kanubari.—Inspected on the 10th February 1890—

"The largest number of deaths has been among the Act coolies. The fatal diseases were chiefly dysentery and cholera, due partly to climatic causes and partly to bad water. Deaths occurred mostly among the new (up-country) coolies.

"Sanitary defects noticed--

"(*a*) The huts where cholera cases occurred were not pulled down. I ordered them to be pulled down during my inspection of the garden.

"(*b*) The river water is very liable to contamination, as there are Nága villages up the stream in the hills.

"(*c*) No decent arrangement for treating sick coolies.

"(*d*) The present native doctor is incompetent; he should not have independent medical charge."

Banjera.—Inspected on the 9th February 1890—

"It does not appear that there has been any epidemic disease in the garden. All these deaths seem to be pretty evenly distributed except in cases of dropsy and debility. These deaths from 'debility' and 'dropsy' were due to *beri-beri*, which was not diagnosed in time to save the lives of these patients.

"The following defects noticed:—

"(*a*) The lines were not kept clean. The huts were not properly ventilated, and some of them leaked badly.

"(*b*) The *pucca* well for drinking-water has not been completed. The manager seems to take pains to have it finished as soon as possible.

"(*c*) There are not sufficient medicines or medical comforts in the hospital.

"(*d*) Only about 120 coolies were mustered, the rest did not appear. I pointed out to the native doctor and the manager eight cases of *beri-beri* among these, and recommended the proper treatment. I inspected the Sonari *hât* the same day. The arrangements for drinking-water are very poor. There was a *kutcha* well with about 2 feet of dirty water in it at the time of my inspection. The place was also kept dirty. The District Engineer is now constructing a tank to supply good water."

Teok.—Inspected on the 7th February 1890 -

"The high death-rate on the garden in 1889 is probably due to the following causes:—

"(*a*) Heavy rainfall, causing the rivers Disang, Taukak, and Teok to back up and flood this part of the country no less than five times, thus causing an increase of malaria.

"(*b*) Want of proper arrangement for the supply of good drinking-water in the garden.

"(*c*) Filthy condition of the lines themselves.

"(*d*) Incompetence of the native doctor and insufficiency of medicines and medical comforts. I paraded all the coolies, and pointed out 13 cases of *beri-beri* and 8 cases of scurvy to the native doctor."

Sonari.—Inspected on the 8th February 1890—

"The garden is unhealthy. Most of the coolies look weak and anæmic. I am afraid the coolies are not carefully looked after. The largest number of deaths have been due to bowel-complaints and dropsy (*beri-beri*). The continued high death-rate in this garden has been due to the following causes :—

"(*a*) The insanitary condition of the lines. These are badly drained and filthy. The huts are ricketty, and most of them are tumbling down. Some new ones are in course of construction. These lines should be pulled down, and new ones built near Mahárája's tank, about 1,500 yards from the present lines.

"(*b*) Bad and insufficient drinking-water. There is a small tank in the lines. Its water is dirty, and gets very low in the dry season. The coolies generally drink the contaminated water of the Taukuk river. There is a large deep Assamese tank about 1,500 yards from the lines. This tank should be cleaned, and its water used for drinking purposes."

Napuk.—Inspected the garden on the 5th February 1890—

"High mortality from dysentery, diarrhœa, anæmia (*beri-beri*), and fever both among the Act and non-Act coolies. The causes of the high death-rate were—

"(*a*) Low damp lines with bad drainage, deep drains are not being cut to make the place dry and healthy.

"(*b*) Bad drinking-water. Both the tanks are kept in a bad state, water dirty and dangerous to health. These tanks should be cleaned, and the water filtered before being used by the coolies for drinking purposes.

"(*c*) The new lines should be completed as soon as possible, and the old lines given up."

Muthrapur.—Inspected on the 4th February 1890—

"1. The largest number of deaths has been from bowel-complaints. I attribute these deaths to impure drinking-water There is only one fair-sized tank in the garden, its water is used both for drinking and bathing purposes. The water is impure, and gets very low during the cold weather.

"Two *pucca* deep wells are urgently required for the garden. The tank-water should only be used for bathing purposes.

"2. The sanitary condition of the lines is not satisfactory. The drains are very shallow, and not properly sloped to carry off water. The lines are not kept clean."

Dimonbari.—Inspected on the 30th March 1890—

"Cholera broke out in an epidemic form in this garden in April 1889. There were 14 deaths during the month. The disease was most probably caused by drinking the contaminated water of the Dimon river. The manager says that the garden above was the first to get it. Both the gardens are situated on the bank of this river, and use Dimon water for washing and drinking purposes.

" Recommendations—

" (1) The lines should be kept clean and the drains deepened.

" (2) A *pucca* well should be sunk as early as possible."

Joboka.—Inspected on the 6th February 1890—

"The largest number of deaths has been from bowel-complaints. These diseases are mainly due to the drinking of contaminated water from the Taukak river. The present tank and the well should be deepened, and their water filtered before being issued to the coolies for drinking purposes. At present the patients are treated in their own huts. This should not be allowed; a large hospital with proper appliances is very necessary. Proper attention should be paid to the cleanliness and proper drainage of the lines."

Rajmai.—Inspected on the 31st March 1890—

"This is a large garden with about 1,500 souls on it. It is at present healthy. During the early part of 1889 there was a large number of deaths from cholera among Act coolies. The disease, as far as could be ascertained, was imported into the garden by new coolies. The following sanitary defects were noticed during my inspection:—

" (*a*) There are too many sets of lines and they are much scattered about. The manager told me they could not be properly inspected daily by himself or the native doctor. There should be three sets of lines for a big garden like this. Those close to the jungle should be pulled down.

" (*b*) Neither the tanks nor the wells are properly protected, there are too many huts close to the tanks. * * * * These huts should be removed. The wells should also be properly protected, and there should be wooden covers for each well."

Nahorhabi.—Inspected on the 13th February 1890—

" Forty-nine deaths among the non-Act coolies, 14 among adults and 35 among children. These deaths were chiefly from bowel-complaints and fever, caused partly by exposure to chills and wet and partly by bad drinking-water. The past year, owing to heavy rainfalls and floods, was very unhealthy, and exceptionally trying to the delicate constitutions of underfed and filthy coolie children.

" The following sanitary recommendations should be carried out :—

" (*a*) The lines should be kept clean, and the drains deepened for the proper outflow of water.

" (*b*) The tank-water is bad ; it contains a large number of vegetable and animal parasites; it must be properly filtered before being used by the coolies for drinking purposes.

" (*c*) There should be a proper hospital for the treatment of serious cases.

" (*d*) The garden must be under European medical supervision. The native doctor is unfit for an independent medical charge."

Taukak.—This garden appears on the list of unhealthy gardens with regard to Act coolies only. The Civil Surgeon inspected the garden on the 6th February 1890, and remarked—

"The mortality in 1888 was over 14 per cent., but in 1889 about 7 per cent, showing a great decrease ; most of the deaths occurred among the up-country coolies, and from dysentery. The following sanitary defects noticed:—

" 1. (*a*) The old lines very dirty and on the bank of the Taukak river. These should be abandoned as soon as possible.

" (*b*) The drinking-water arrangements still very unsatisfactory. Many coolies still drink the river water. The bad drinking-water has been the chief cause of death from dysentery.

" (*c*) The present hospital arrangements are very unsatisfactory.

" 2. Improvements made since last inspection—

" (*a*) New lines have been built, and the old lines are gradually being abandoned.

" (*b*) There is one *pucca* well and another *pucca* well in course of construction. The tank is being deepened this year.

" (*c*) A new hospital, in course of construction, will be finished in a few months."

Katalguri.—Inspected this garden on the 8th March 1890—

" This has been an unhealthy garden for some years. The largest number of deaths was due to cholera and other bowel-complaints. These diseases were no doubt brought on by drinking the 'dangerous' water of the Desai river.

" At the present inspection I found the death-rate from these diseases low. A great progress has been made in the sanitary arrangements of the place. The lines on the bank of the river Desai are being pulled down, and new lines built north of the Dhodur Ali on a new clearance. There is now a good *pucca* well in the new lines, and it would be ready for use in a week or so. There is also a Norton tube well in the old lines, which is nearly ready."

Mazenga.—Inspected on the 12th March 1890—

" Seven deaths among the Act coolies, of these, six occurred among the convalescent coolies from *beri-beri*, who were transferred to this garden from the head factory at Hilika. I cannot hold this garden responsible for these deaths.

"The non-Act death-rate is high. This is confined chiefly to very old people and children, mainly from want of proper nourishing food.

"*Recommendations*.—The drains in the lines should be deepened. Windows should be cut in the huts for better ventilation.

"Another *pucca* well should be dug, as one well is not sufficient to supply good drinking-water to the coolies all the year round."

Mohima.—A large number of deaths took place from cholera, which is said to have been brought into the factory by a sardár, whose relatives suffered the most severely. The Civil Surgeon inspected on the 12th March 1890, and remarked—

"During my inspection I noticed the following sanitary defects:—

"(*a*) *The lines*.—They were overcrowded. Some of the huts should be pulled down The drains require careful looking after. They are in many places filled up with husks of rice, human hair, and other sweepings from the lines.

"(*b*) The water from the wells is abundant, but contains a large quantity of suspended matter. The water should be filtered before use.

"There is a compounder in medical charge of the garden. He is totally unfit for his post. A qualified native doctor should be employed."

Dhekiajuli.—The sanitary arrangements of this garden are said to be satisfactory. The only recommendation the Civil Surgeon had to make in his inspection report dated the 9th March 1890 is that—

"The present compounder should be replaced by a good man as soon as possible. I asked him what he should do to stop bleeding from the nose, he answered that he would use a 'gargle.'"

Soicatta.—Inspected on the 13th March 1890—

"Dysentery was very prevalent in this garden during the past year, and caused many deaths but since the issue of carbo-calcis filtered water to the coolies from December last, the number of deaths from bowel-complaints has wonderfully decreased. The lines and drinking-water arrangements are satisfactory."

Bheluguri. Inspected on the 21st March 1890—

"The sanitary arrangements of this garden are satisfactory. The lines are well drained and kept clean, and the huts have high plinths and are well ventilated. I believe that the high death-rate is chiefly owing to the large class of anæmic and debilitated coolies imported into the garden during the last two years."

Mariani.—Inspected on the 8th March 1890—

"Of the 14 deaths among the Act coolies, 9 were from cholera, 5 from dysentery. These deaths were no doubt due to bad drinking-water, which is obtained from the Desai river. Two *pucca* wells are under construction, and I have no doubt that the death-rate of this garden will wonderfully decrease when these wells will be ready for use."

Jitukia.—Inspected on the 20th March 1890—

"The sanitary arrangements of this garden are satisfactory. The lines are clear, dry, and well drained The drinking-water from the wells is fairly good. Deaths from cholera and other bowel-complaints noticed during the last inspection were confined mostly to the new up-country coolies These diseases were brought on chiefly by error in diet. These people are very dirty feeders.

"*Suggestions*.—It would be better if filtering arrangements are made for purifying the well-water now drunk by the coolies"

Khorikotia.—Inspected on the 13th March 1890—

"The sanitary arrangements on this garden are satisfactory. The lines consist chiefly of *pucca* barracks, which are roomy, comfortable, and well ventilated. The drinking-water is also good and abundant."

Daklangia.—Inspected on the 9th March 1890—

"Dysentery prevails largely in this garden, and this is mainly due to bad drinking-water. Two *pucca* wells should be constructed as soon as possible. The construction of the new hospital should be hurried on."

Dhansiri.—This garden was twice inspected, *viz*., on the 5th September and 6th December 1889. The following are the remarks made by the Civil Surgeon on both occasions:—

First Inspection.—"At the time of my inspection there were 75 patients in hospital, the prevailing diseases were ulcers, diarrhœa, fever, and anæmia. Ulcers:—There were 32 cases under treatment, they were chiefly scorbutic in origin; most of these patients had puffy anæmic faces with sodden ulcerated bleeding gums. These cases were specially dieted by the manager for nearly three months, and their diet consisted of rice 1 seer, dal 2 *chattacks*, ghee 1 *chattack*, and a little salt. No green fresh vegetables of any kind were given to them. These ulcers broke out (chiefly on the legs) within a month after

the commencement of this special dieting. The rest of the coolies in the garden did not suffer from this kind of ulcer. The ulcers were treated with carbolic acid, iodoform, &c., and they were getting worse. The ulcers were diagnosed by the garden doctor as 'Nága sores.' I explained the true nature of the ulcers to the native doctor and the manager, and also indicated the proper treatment of these scurvy sores. There were 9 cases of '*beri-beri*,' 6 dropsical and 3 anæmic stage."

Second Inspection.—"The Deputy-Surgeon-General and myself inspected the garden again on the 6th December. All the ulcer cases have recovered. *Amchur*, lime-juice, and fresh vegetables, as recommended by me, were given to the patients.

"*The lines.*—Clean and free from jungle. The drainage defective, and the huts had very low plinths and damp floor.

"*Drinking-water.*—From the Dhansiri river, which is very liable to contamination. One *pucca* well is in course of construction. The drinking-water arrangements are very unsatisfactory.

"*Hospital.*—One *kutcha* hospital with sufficient medicines and instruments. Here also the sick register has not been properly kept. Cases of *anchylostominasis* have been put down as 'anæmia,' 'dropsy,' 'debility.'

Recommendations—

(*a*) Proper arrangements should be made for a good supply of pure drinking-water. Two *pucca* wells should be sunk as soon as possible.
(*b*) The drains should be deepened and properly sloped for outflow of water.
(*c*) The sick register should be properly kept"

Bihora.—Inspected on the 13th December 1889—

"This garden was unhealthy last year, and is again unhealthy this year. There have been 23 deaths among Act coolies and 13 among non-Act coolies since last inspection. The principal causes of death were debility, dysentery, and dropsy * * * *. I would recommend the following:—

"(*a*) The new lines (where most of these deaths occurred) should be pulled down.
"(*b*) The wells should be closed, and a big tank dug at a suitable place, with proper filter arrangements.
"(*c*) The importation of new coolies into this garden should be stopped till the above sanitary defects are removed."

Difflu.—Inspected on the 15th December 1889—

"There has been a large number of deaths among the Act coolies since last inspection. Most of these deaths resulted from cholera, bowel-complaints, and pneumonia. * * * The importation of new coolies during the year was unusually large, and the season having been unusually unhealthy would account in some measure for the high mortality among Act coolies. The other causes operating to increase the death-rate have been the Difflu water and the insanitary condition of the lines."

Deering.—Inspected on the 14th December 1889—

"The garden is jungly. The lines are not properly drained. The river water is dangerous. The manager says that two Norton tube wells are on their way from Calcutta. Hospital arrangements not satisfactory. In an unhealthy garden like this a duly qualified native doctor on good pay should be appointed and not a compounder. Dr. S. O. Bishop attends only when required, and that might be once a month or once in six months, which is also unsatisfactory."

Hankuli—Inspected on the 18th December 1889—

"The sanitary defects noticed were—

"(*a*) The drinking-water. This is obtained from a small stream running through the garden from the Mikir Hills. The water is very liable to contamination, as the coolies bathe as well as wash all their dirty clothes in it. * * *
"(*b*) The lines were fairly clean, but the huts were on low plinths. The hospital arrangements in the garden are very unsatisfactory."

Halmira.—Inspected on the 15th March 1890—

"The death-rate exceeded 7 per cent. by ·01 only. These deaths were due to a few cases of debility, dysentery, and fever. * * The coolies appear to be generally healthy, and are carefully looked after."

Dakhinhengra.—Inspected on the 16th March 1890—

"1. Fifteen deaths among non-Act labourers; of these, 14 occurred among children and boys. The causes of death were cholera, dysentery, and convulsions, due to bad feeding and want of proper care on the part of the mothers.

"2. The lines are bad; new lines should be commenced as soon as possible.

"3. Drinking-water arrangements are unsatisfactory The present tank should be properly fenced in, and its water should be filtered before being used by the coolies. One deep *pucca* well also required."

During the year 1889 only one committee was held, *viz.*, on the Hatichungi garden. The committee found that nearly all the suggestions which had been made by the Civil Surgeon had been carried out. The garden is not on the unhealthy list for 1889.

47. In the following list are shown the gardens in the Lakhimpur district on which the mortality, either among Act or non-Act coolies separately, or on the total labour force, exceeded 7 per cent, the number of deaths being more than 10:—

Unhealthy gardens in Lakhimpur.

Sub-division.	Name of garden	Mean strength.		Deaths.			Ratio per mille.			Deaths among Act labourers.	
		First half-year.	Second half-year.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Total.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Annual	Number	Ratio per mille.
Sadr	Chabua	1,509	1,616	20	62	91	19·2	88·3	57·5	36	79 2
	Nagaghuli	1,485	1,548	22	23	45	14 8	14 8	29·6	26	72 1
	Hukanguri	1,655	1,681	30	59	89	28 5	29 7	53 2	71	115 9
	Assam Railway and Trading Company's coal-mines	1,866	2,080	48	100	148	25·7	48·0	79 7	104	88 3
	Jaipur	890	880	30	18	48	33 7	20 4	54 1	42	89·1
	Mesaijan	527	719	34	76	110	64 5	105 7	170·2	59	737 5
	Blackburn	419	470	12	16	28	28 6	34 0	62 6	10	49 5
	Dum Duma	2,008	2,034	30	68	98	14 9	33 4	48 3	66	86·2
	Bishakupi	1,237	1,423	23	54	77	18 5	37 9	56·4	42	84 4
	Samdang	429	518	15	34	49	34 9	65 6	100·5	30	155 5
	Greenwood	1,208	1,293	14	40	54	11 5	30 9	42 4	39	120 9
	Balijan	697	757	13	17	30	19 4	23·0	42 4	24	71 6
	Nahartoli	633	655	8	56	64	12 6	81·7	94·3	20	131·8
	Khanikar	565	577	7	26	33	12·3	45·0	57 3	17	114 1
	Chota Hapjan	363	445	7	15	22	19 2	33·7	52·9	18	93 9
	Sealkati	778	801	28	25	53	35 9	31 2	67·1	36	100 7
	Tiphuk	1,150	1,156	15	24	39	13·0	20 7	33·8	30	76 8
	Singlijan	384	414	28	17	45	72 9	41·0	113·9	22	115·3
	Hilika	3,168	3,429	62	78	140	19·5	22 7	42 2	85	73 7
	Romai Tipling	462	462	11	11	22	23 8	23 8	47 6	14	78·4
	Dikhari	299	287	27	13	40	90 3	45·2	135 5	10	81 6
	Dingliting	141	105	5	7	12	35 4	42 4	77 8	5	105·3
	Boyle	240	257	9	11	20	37 5	42 8	80·3	6	100 3
	Tamalbari	162	157	7	6	13	43 2	38·2	81 4	6	88 5
North Lakhimpur	Dirju	1,685	1,821	69	77	146	40 9	42·2	83 1	79	84 4
	Annisbari	343	382	12	18	30	34 9	47·1	82 0	12	85 9
	Ohat	699	757	32	24	56	45 7	31·7	77 4	32	87·9
Total of unhealthy gardens		24,972	26,792	636	966	1,602	25 4	36 0	61 4	....	.
Total of district		65,185	69,507	1,295	1,812	3,107	19 8	26 0	45 8	....	....
Balance, i.e., healthy gardens		40,213	42,715	659	846	1,505	16·3	19 8	36 1	..	....

Of the above 27 gardens, 17 only have been inspected by the Civil Surgeon, but this is due to the fact of the Civil Surgeon having been obliged to leave the district suddenly on medical leave.

The recorded causes of death in these gardens are shown in the following table:—

Sub-division.	Name of garden.	Cholera.	Dysentery.	Fever.	Dropsy.	Anæmia.	Other causes.	Total.
Sadr	Chabua	9	33	17	...	6	26	91
	Nagaghuli	6	10	2	2	...	25	45
	Hukanguri	47	19	16	2	...	5	89
	Assam Railway and Trading Company's coal mines.	.....	10	15	...	...	123	148
	Jaipur	15	9	...	1	3	20	48
	Mesaijan	.....	54	12	8	...	36	110
	Blackburn	3	7	3	1	...	14	28
	Dum-Duma	9	31	14	7	15	22	98
	Bishakupi	1	21	18	24	...	13	77
	Samdang	10	22	2	2	...	13	49
	Greenwood	8	16	2	12	...	16	54
	Balijan	3	9	1	6	3	8	30
	Nahartoli	.....	30	5	5	...	24	64
	Khanikar	11	5	1	4	5	7	53
	Chota Hapjan	4	1	1	1	...	15	22
	Sealkati	11	19	7	2	...	14	53
	Tiphuk	6	5	2	8	9	9	39
	Singlijan	29	11	2	1	...	2	45
	Hilika	59	19	11	12	25	14	140
	Romai Tipling	1	6	4	...	1	10	22
	Dikhari	15	7	4	...	...	14	40
	Dengliting	1	7	1	...	...	3	12
	Boyle	3	6	3	3	...	5	20
	Tamalbari	1	3	2	1	...	6	13
North Lakhimpur.	Dirju	27	45	7	10	2	55	146
	Annisbari	8	...	3	3	...	16	30
	Ohat	8	12	2	4	...	30	56
	Total	295	417	157	119	69	545	1,602

The Deputy-Commissioner writes—

"The list will appear to be a long one, as compared with that of 1888, 27 gardens against 17 in the previous year. But the list should be compared with the list printed on pages 60 and 61 of the last Provincial Report, and not with the list of unhealthy gardens, technically so called, in 1888. It will be seen that really we have a much smaller number of unhealthy gardens this year, 27 against 37 in 1888."

Mesaijan, Dum Duma, Bishakupi, Sealkati, Singlijan, Hukanguri, Khanikar, Blackburn, and Dirju were unhealthy in 1888.

The following remarks are extracted from the Civil Surgeon's inspection reports: —

"*Chabua* (inspected on the 7th April 1890).—This garden has not been on the unhealthy list for 13 years. The sanitary arrangements throughout are good, and the heavy mortality is attributed to causes outside the garden itself, probably the unusually heavy rainfall.

"*Nagaghuli* (inspected on the 21st April 1890).—The high death-rate has been due to the importation of a bad lot of coolies. Of the 18 deaths among Act coolies, 8 died within a year of arrival on the garden.

"*Hukanguri* (inspected on the 12th April 1890).—The large mortality was due to cholera. The want of care in keeping the lines clear must favour the spread of this disease. Many of the houses are in bad repair. The drains are not kept clean, and would thus become inefficient. The elevation of the floors of the houses is another point calling for attention; many of them are below the level of the outside ground (of the lines), and this must be detrimental to the health of the coolies. The water-supply is now good; all the wells are good, and either already provided with pumps, tanks, covers, and shades, or are being so provided.

"*Mesaijan* (inspected on the 10th April 1890).—The death-rate on this garden is enormous, and is almost entirely due to *anchylostomiasis*. It has no doubt been to some extent augmented by an epidemic of measles lasting from April to July 1889. * * * The following points require attention:—

"(1) The wells not so provided should be covered in and fitted with pumps.

"(2) The old and rotten houses in the old lines should be pulled down and others built, not on the old site, but some little distance away, as the old houses were too close together.

"(3) The huts roofed with iron should either have thatch outside, or *ekra* and bamboos inside the iron to protect the coolies from the heat of the sun.

"(4) The provision of latrines for the use of all the coolies would be advisable, in view of the fact that the spread of *anchylostomiasis* is believed to be due to want of proper conservancy arrangements

"*Blackburn* (inspected on the 24th April 1890).—There is no sanitary defect in the lines. The mortality has been largely increased by the deaths of a number of infants and children."

"*Dum Duma* (inspected on the 11th April 1890).—One small set of lines on the bank of the Dibru river is unprovided with a well. These lines are near the hospital, and a well is being made in front of this building, from which the coolies are intended to draw water, but as the river is nearer, the coolies will certainly get their supply from the river. A well ought to be provided. In one of the large sets of lines, the roofs are of iron. The only protection afforded to the coolies from the heat of this roof is fire-wood placed on *changs* inside the roof. Other arrangements ought to be made."

"*Bishakupi* (inspected on the 9th April 1890)—The chief points calling for attention on the garden are (1) that in what are called the main lines, the huts are greatly crowded, some of the huts being so placed as to obstruct the free passage of air * * * (2) as before pointed out, the wells in the lines are closely surrounded by huts, which is objectionable * * * I think it would be better if the huts were removed and a clear open space left.

"*Samdang* (inspected on the 10th April 1890).—The lines are not kept clean, and the drains are blocked up with rubbish. Some of the houses are in bad repair. A well for the segregation huts is being dug, but is not finished."

With regard to this garden, the Deputy-Commissioner remarks—

"In spite of the improvements made on Mr. Driberg's suggestions, this garden still heads the list of unhealthy estates, so that some other cause than negligent management must be sought for.

"*Greenwood* (inspected on the 25th April 1890).—The garden is in good sanitary condition. The high death-rate has been caused by importation of bad coolies Out of 16 Act deaths, 9 occurred within eight months of the coolies' arrival on the garden, and 4 more within ten months.

"*Khanikar* (inspected on the 22nd April 1890.—The mortality is very high, and has been caused by cholera and *anchylostomiasis* (*beri-beri*, dropsy, anæmia, &c). I have been unable to find any sanitary defect in the lines, and as the garden has for some years past been a healthy one, the inference is that the high death-rate has been produced first by an accidental invasion of cholera, and second by the very wet season being unfavourable to the anæmic cases, and causing an unusually large number of deaths.

"*Chota Hapjan* (inspected on the 15th April 1890).—The defects on this garden are (1) that between the two rows of coolie huts there are a large number of cow-houses, and (2) the wells are not provided with pumps.

"*Tiphuk* (inspected on the 14th April 1890).—The lines on the low site should be abandoned, and the lines generally put into good repair.

"*Hilika* (inspected on the 12th April 1890).—The high death-rate here seems to be largely due to cholera. The state of the Bengali lines is highly favourable to the spread of this disease. The houses are crowded together and surrounded by cow-houses, and what little open space there may be is cultivated and fenced in with high bamboos to keep the cattle out. The water-supply hotel, hospital, and the sanitary arrangements in other respects are satisfactory.

"*Dikhari* (inspected on the 5th April 1890).—The high death rate on this garden is attributed by the manager to an outbreak of cholera and dysentery. The cases occurred in the old lines on low lying site. The cholera was checked by removing the coolies from their lines to temporary huts. Fifty of the old huts were burnt down. The manager states that when at work the coolies drink dirty water from drains, &c. This is now checked by having water from the line wells carried out to the coolies at work. The wells require to be covered in and fitted with pumps."

The three unhealthy gardens in North Lakhimpur were all inspected—

"*Dirju* (inspected on the 19th March 1890).—The most prominent point in connection with the death register is the predominance of dysentery. An examination of the hospital books for the last couple of years shows that bowel-complaints, and more especially dysentery, are fearfully prevalent. The causation of this can, I think, be traced to two sources:—

(1) bad drainage of the lines ; and
(2) the want of a proper water-supply.

Both these points are being attended to by the present manager. In two divisions of the lines an efficient surface drainage scheme has been put in hand, and is now nearly completed. The third set of lines has not yet been undertaken. Good sites for three wells have been prepared. One of these wells has been dug, but has not yet been made *pucca*, and a second is being dug.

"*Amnisbari* (inspected on the 21st March 1890).—The death-rate among Act coolies has been greatly augmented by cholera, 5 out of the 9 deaths being due to that disease. * * * Among the non-Act coolies the deaths have mainly occurred among children, 11 out of the 14 deaths being of individuals under 9 years of age. The health of the lines would, I think, be improved by more thorough drainage of the lines.

"*Ohat* (inspected on the 21st March 1890).—The drainage on this garden is defective in the Merbhil lines. It is now being improved. A tract of low swampy forest lying between the Ohat and Merbhil lines must exercise a prejudicial effect on the health of those living in both sets of lines."

The other gardens should be inspected as soon as possible. These reports were not received from the Commissioner until the 3rd July.

General remarks on unhealthy gardens.

48. The Chief Commissioner cannot conclude this Chapter without again calling attention to the requirements of Rule 150 of the Rules issued under Section 143 of Act I. of 1882, which lays down that every unhealthy garden "shall at once be inspected by the Civil Surgeon, whose report on it shall be embodied in the annual report sent up by the Deputy-Commissioner." As regards the present report, it cannot be said that this rule has, in all cases, been sufficiently complied with. For instance, in the Cachar district there were 12 unhealthy gardens, but the Civil Surgeon's inspection reports were only received in the case of five of these. Again, in the Lakhimpur district, the Civil Surgeon's reports have been received only in the case of 17 out of the 27 unhealthy gardens.

The Chief Commissioner is aware that the change referred to in paragraph 40 of the system under which gardens are classed as unhealthy has resulted in a very material (though to a certain extent only apparent) increase in the number of such gardens during the year under report, but he is not satisfied that more might not have been done in the matter of inspecting the gardens immediately each was found to be on the unhealthy list. So far as the Chief Commissioner can understand, the reasons for this result must be either (1) non-receipt of returns from managers; or (2) failure of the Deputy-Commissioner, immediately on receipt of the returns showing any particular garden to be on the black list, to call upon the Civil Surgeon to inspect the garden; or (3) dilatoriness on the part of Civil Surgeons to inspect, notwithstanding that they have received intimation from the Deputy-Commissioner of a garden being unhealthy, and that they have been called upon to inspect the garden. As regards (1), it devolves upon district officers to communicate with managers so as to secure the punctual receipt of the returns, and there is no reason whatever to suppose that, at all events in the large majority of cases, such communications, if made in sufficient time, would fail to effect the desired result. The duty of remedying any defect under (2) clearly rests with Deputy-Commissioners. The returns of each garden on receipt should be at once scrutinised, and if the garden is unhealthy, the Civil Surgeon should be immediately instructed to inspect it. These remarks apply with special force to unhealthy gardens on which Act labourers are mainly employed, and the immediate inspection of which is essential. The important point here is to deal with the return of each garden as received, and not to await the receipt of the returns of other gardens before taking action. As regards (3), the Chief Commissioner must look to the Deputy-Surgeon-General to apply the necessary remedy.

In the next place, Mr. Quinton is obliged to remark upon the unsatisfactory nature of some of the inspection reports received from Civil Surgeons. In the large majority of cases, the Chief Commissioner fully recognises that the work is done with thoroughness and efficiency, but there can be no doubt that in some cases the inspections are occasionally carried out in a meagre and perfunctory manner, and that the reports received disclose a more or less complete want of appreciation on the part of the inspecting officer of the importance of the duty entrusted to him. There is the less excuse for any failure on the part of Civil Surgeons in this respect, as very full instructions have been issued for their guidance by the Deputy-Surgeon-General in his Circular No 18., dated the 25th March 1890. Lastly, the Chief Commissioner desires to call the attention of all district officers to the necessity for carefully watching all unhealthy gardens, and for seeing that the necessary steps are taken to appoint committees under the Act where the state of things is such as renders this desirable. At the same time district officers should be careful to see that effect is given by the managers of gardens to any recommendations for remedying defects, which may be made either by Civil Surgeons or by committees appointed under the Act. It is obviously futile to put the inspecting machinery into motion without, at the same time, seeing that some practical good is derived therefrom in cases in which defects, susceptible of remedy, may be shown to exist. On the other hand, each Deputy-Commissioner should prepare a list of gardens which require more than the ordinary amount of inspection, should watch them very carefully, and should take such action as may be necessary in regard to each immediately on receipt of the half-yearly returns.

CHAPTER VI.—Inspection.

Number of gardens submitting returns.

49. The number of gardens shown in the inspection registers has increased from 892 to 896, and the number submitting returns from 755 to 762. In Cachar, managers are still backward in submitting returns, and it was found necessary to institute prosecutions in 22 cases. The results in Nowgong and Sibságar are also far from satisfactory; but an improvement in this respect is noticeable in the case of the other districts.

Classification of gardens according to the labourers employed, and inspection of Act and non-Act gardens

50. The following statement shows the number of gardens, classified district by district, according to the number of the labourers employed, the number which submitted returns, and the number visited by inspecting officers:—

	Cachar.					Sylhet.					Kámrúp					Darrang.				
	Employing Act coolies	Non-Act Over 50.	Non-Act Under 50	No coolies on estate.	Total.	Employing Act coolies	Non-Act Over 50.	Non-Act Under 50	No coolies on estate.	Total.	Employing Act coolies	Non-Act Over 50.	Non-Act Under 50.	No coolies on estate	Total.	Employing Act coolies	Non-Act Over 50.	Non-Act Under 50	No coolies on estate	Total.
Number of gardens	154	23	..	7	184	69	42	2	1	114	10	4	47	28	89	73	4	2	7	86
Ditto sending returns 50 and 51	154	23	..	..	177	69	42	2	..	113	10	4	5	..	19	73	4	2	..	79
Ditto inspected once	118	20	..	..	138	65	34	1	..	100	9	4	1	..	14	59	4	..	..	63
Ditto ditto twice....	13	.	..	..	13	3	..	..	..	3	..	.	..	..	..	14	.	..	..	14
Ditto ditto thrice .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	.	..	..	..	..
Total number inspected..	131	20	..	..	151	68	34	1	..	103	9	4	1	..	14	73	4	..	..	77
Total number inspected in 1888.	155	17	..	..	172	74	34	1	1	110	10	6	3	..	19	62	9	.		71

	Nowgong.					Sibságar.					Lakhimpur					Total.				
	Employing Act coolies	Non Act. Over 50.	Non Act. Under 50.	No coolies on estate.	Total.	Employing Act coolies	Non Act. Over 50.	Non Act. Under 50.	No coolies on estate	Total.	Employing Act coolies	Non Act. Over 50.	Non Act. Under 50.	No coolies on estate.	Total	Employing Act coolies.	Non Act. Over 50.	Non Act. Under 50.	No coolies on estate.	Total
Number of gardens	34	14	8	5	61	160	12	5	34	211	138	4	4	10	151	633	103	68	92	896
Ditto sending returns 50 and 51.	34	14	8	..	56	160	12	5	..	177	138	4	4	..	141	633	103	26	..	762
Ditto inspected once	34	13	..	..	47	160	10	..	..	160	118	4	4	..	126	553	89	6		648
Ditto ditto twice	..	1	..	..	1	9	..	..		9	13		..	..	13	52	1		.	53
Ditto ditto thrice. .	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..		1	2		..		2	3			..	3
Total number inspected ..	34	14	..	..	48	160	10		..	170	133	4	4	..	141	608	90	6	.	704
Total number inspected in 1889.	31	17	1		49	161	11	2	..	174	132	4	4		140	625	98	11	1	735

The Chief Commissioner regrets to see that there has been a falling off in the inspection work done during the year, 704 gardens having been inspected in place of 735 in the previous year. On the other hand, 53 gardens were inspected twice and three gardens three times, while last year the number of gardens visited twice was only 35.

Thirty-three gardens were left uninspected in Cachar, of which 18 employ Act labour. Of these, however, seven gardens have no separate coolie-lines. The bulk of the inspections were made by the Assistant District Superintendent of Police; but the Deputy-Commissioner inspected 20 gardens himself. In Sylhet all but 11 and in Lakhimpur all but 10 gardens were inspected. The table shows that 41 gardens remained uninspected in the Sibságar district during the year, but the Deputy-Commissioner explains that there are no coolies residing on 34 of these estates. As regards inspection generally the Chief Commissioner directs the attention of all district officers to the remarks made in paragraph 60 of last year's report. The principal points to be borne in mind are (1) that as many gardens as possible should be thoroughly inspected during the course of each year; (2) that where the circumstances of a garden require it, a second or even third inspection should be made during the same year; (3) that inspection should be carried out as far as possible during the rains, when it is possible to judge of the state of the lines, drains, &c., and when the garden is in more or less full working order; and (4) that Deputy-Commissioners should invariably themselves undertake a fair proportion of the duty of inspection. Care should be taken that the work is not conducted in a haphazard fashion, but it should be regularly distributed amongst the several qualified members of the local staff, and the Deputy-Commissioner should see that the programme laid down is fully worked up to in each case, and should himself undertake the inspection of some of the most important gardens. It is only by these means that the systematic and proper performance of the work can be expected.

CHAPTER VII.—Working of the System generally.

Relations between employers and labourers.

51. The information given in the following paragraphs is taken from the district reports.

The Deputy-Commissioner, Cachar, writes that, on the whole, managers and coolies have got on very well together during the year:—

"Almost all the complaints brought against managers during 1889 came from gardens where the managers were new, and had notions of their own as to the manner and time of paying wages and other difficulties, which could perhaps have been smoothed away."

The only serious case was one in which it was alleged that a coolie had been flogged, but the prosecution broke down completely. The case really belongs to 1888. In the Sylhet district, the relations between managers and coolies continued to be satisfactory. One manager was fined for assaulting a coolie. Mr. Kennedy thinks that the majority of these cases are compromised. No case is reported from Kámrúp. In Darrang the Chief Commissioner regrets to notice that relations between employers and labourers were not so satisfactory as heretofore. The following are the chief cases:—In one case a large number of coolies broke into the jemadár's house, dragged him up to the manager, and demanded payment of wages which they alleged were in arrears. The disturbance, however, was not serious. It was found that the coolies' allegations were false, and five of the ringleaders were punished for rioting. A more serious case was one in which, alleging short pay, a crowd of coolies set on the manager, and severely beat him. Thirteen of them were convicted of rioting, and sentenced to various terms of imprisonment, from two years downwards. The conviction was upheld on appeal. The last case reported was that of labourers being dissatisfied with the kind of work they were set to do, and joining in an armed body for the purpose of intimidating the manager and his jemadár. Five of the accused were convicted under Section 144, Indian Penal Code.

In Nowgong the relations between employers and labourers continued to be generally satisfactory. A manager was fined a nominal sum for beating a chaukidár who was found cruelly ill-treating his wife. In a very isolated garden, the manager, who was of an excitable temperament did not get on well with the coolies. He was undoubtedly subject to curious hallucinations, and had subsequently to be sent away. His successor found the labour force very much out of hand, and it became necessary to bind down seven of the ringleaders to keep the peace. The cases reported from the Sibságar district are unimportant. In two cases managers were fined for petty assaults, and two other cases were withdrawn or compromised. The Deputy-Commissioner reports that, as usual, complaints were made by coolies against managers for refusing to give

them release certificates and to allow them to take away their property from the garden. In these cases it is generally found that coolies come to court in the first instance without informing the manager that they wish to leave. They do this, it is explained, chiefly at or about the time of expiry of their contracts, when managers endeavour to induce them to re-engage. The Deputy-Commissioner of Lakhimpur is satisfied that the relations between employers and labourers in that district are on an extremely good footing. No manager was punished for ill-treating his coolies. Some Kacharis were convicted of uniting and threatening a manager, who had, while pointing out to them the way in which some work should be done, "tapped" one of them with a cane. In another garden a man was convicted of intimidating the manager, but no assault actually occurred. A more serious case has come before the Chief Commissioner's notice; one in which a manager was tried for voluntarily causing grievous hurt to a coolie. The trial took place after the close of the year, and the case is not mentioned in the district report. The case was tried by the Sessions Judge and a jury. The jury found the accused guilty of simple assault only, and he was fined Rs. 100.

In conclusion, the Chief Commissioner is pleased to find that it is not necessary in the present report, as was his predecessor's duty last year, to allude to any cases of exceptional or special cruelty. Mr Quinton agrees with the view, expressed in paragraph 61 of last year's report, that, generally speaking, the relations between employers and labourers are fairly good. All cases touching on the relations between employers and labourers are, however, most carefully watched.

Relation between the tea-garden population and the villagers

52. The garden population continued to live on generally friendly terms with the natives of the country, especially in the older and more settled tea districts. Some exceptional cases took place in South Sylhet One was the serious riot alluded to in paragraph 27 above, which ended in a Bengali's death. The Sub-divisional Officer, South Sylhet, writes —

"Numerous cases of arson were reported, but without ending in the detection of the offenders. At Amrailcherra the lines were set on fire 14 times during the year. It is impossible that this could be the result of accident. Kaliti bungalow and tea-house were also burned to the ground, undoubtedly the work of one of the villagers with whom the manager is not on good terms. Occasional rumours of bázars being boycotted reach me, owing to some disputes about the grazing of cattle or cutting of jungle produce."

The Deputy-Commissioner states that this unfriendliness in South Sylhet is due to the gardens taking up waste land which the villagers had hitherto used for their own convenience and supply of firewood. With regard to Cachar the Deputy-Commissioner writes —

"Imported labourers form so large a proportion of the population of Cachar that it would be strange if the indigenous population were not prepared to make the best of them, and the garden bázárs are a source of profit to the mirásdárs, who sell their produce there at good prices."

In the districts of the Assam Valley any friction that arises is due only to grazing disputes, which appear to arise chiefly in Sibságar.

General condition of labourers

53. On this subject the Chief Commissioner has nothing to add to the remarks made in the special report, which it is unnecessary to repeat here.

Settlement of time expired garden labourers on the land.

54. The figures below show the amount of land held direct from Government by immigrants in the various districts of the Province :—

District.	1888. Acres.	1889. Acres.
Cachar	6,153	6,626
Sylhet	200	284
Kamrúp	15	49
Darrang	5,742	6,371
Nowgong	1,224	1,425
Sibságar	8,109	9,217
Lakhimpur	3,872	4,404
Total	25,315	28,376

The increase is common to all districts, and was greatest in Sibságar, Lakhimpur Darrang, and Cachar. The Sylhet figures refer only to the Pratabgarh tahsil, and do not include, as the Sibságar figures do, land cultivated by coolies within the grants on which they labour. In Darrang the land is held under 3,305 *pattas* directly from Government, and is said to be occupied by 7,642 persons. The Deputy-Commissioner of Sibsagar writes—

"Paddy-growing is found extremely remunerative. In Jorhat, which is thickly cultivated, there is little or no *rupit* land available. Coolies there take up lands under the Assamese, and pay as much as Rs. 10 per *pura*, *i.e.*, Rs. 2-8 per *bigha*, against the Government rate of 10 annas."

The same officer remarks:—

"There is not the least symptom perceptible of any desire on the part of planters to settle ryots generally. They give lands only to labourers actually employed on the estate, or to time-expired labourers for the purpose of retaining them and their dependents."

Inland Labour Transport Fund.

55. The following table shows the receipts and disbursements of the Inland Labour Transport Fund in Bengal and Assam during the year 1889-90 :—

Receipts.	Rs.	As.	P.	Disbursements.	Rs.	As.	P.
Medical	.....			Salaries of depôt establishments (including Native doctors, Hospital-Assistants, compounders, dressers, clerks, and menial servants)	9,662	3	9
Contractors' license-fees under Section 13	450	0	0				
Recruiters' license-fees under Section 24	1,092	0	0	Supplies and services (including diet of patients, value of medical stores, purchase of country medicines, expenses during the prevalence of epidemics, petty construction and repairs).....	6,671	8	9
Registration-fees under Sections 35 and 68.....	8,987	12	0				
Fees for license of inland steamers and native boats under Section 90	1,410	0	0				
Rates under Section 109	49,732	7	0	Contingent charges.....	2,575	2	1
Fees for use of debarkation depôts	2,689	2	6	Grants to dispensaries.....	5,300	0	0
Diet, &c., charges recovered	3,243	14	0	Inspectors, Embarkation Agents, and other officers.....	23,482	10	8
Recoveries for sick coolies treated in hospitals	398	2	6	Clerks and servants.....	12,949	14	7
Cash recoveries	.....			Travelling allowances	6,379	13	8
Fines and miscellaneous.....	208	2	5	Miscellaneous (including rents, percentage for treasury and audit establishments, refunds, pensions)	4,444	11	0
Total.....	68,211	8	5	Total.....	71,466	0	6

By order of the Chief Commissioner of Assam,

F. C. DAUKES,

Offg. Secretary to the Chief Commissioner of Assam.

A. S. Press (P. & R) No. 76—300—1-8-90.

RETURN.

Return showing the Statistics of Labour Force of

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Classes of labourers.	Number remaining at the end of year.	Additions made during the year 1869.												
		Imported.			Otherwise than by importation.									
		By contractors.	By garden-sardars.	Free labourers and dependents imported direct.	Number giving contract under Section 111.	Number giving contract under Section 112.	Received from other gardens.	Recovered after having been struck off as deserters.	Remaining after expiry of contract.	Otherwise obtained.	Births.	By transfer to adults from minors.	Total added.	Total of columns 2 and 14.
Cachar ..... Act-I. labourers (adults)	10,872	641	1,809	....	1,448	119	87	53	....	....	....	....	4,157	15,029
Cachar ..... Non-Act labourers.. Adults ..	41,283	....	....	2,227	....	..	267	..	3,626	4,499	....	3,088	12,902	54,085
Cachar ..... Non-Act labourers.. Children..	41,279	....	....	1,385	....	..	58	..	455	1,405	3,307	....	6,810	47,889
Cachar ..... Total	93,434	641	1,809	4,612	1,448	119	512	53	4,081	5,904	3,307	1,088	23,869	117,063
Sylhet ..... Act-I. labourers (adults)	8,729	51	1,142	....	4,165	57	42	62	....	....	....	....	5,519	14,248
Sylhet ..... Non-Act labourers .. Adults ..	24,882	....	....	5,886	....	..	1,572	..	2,863	2,907	....	536	13,764	38,646
Sylhet ..... Non-Act labourers .. Children..	24,579	....	....	4,955	....	..	593	..	....	781	2,448	....	8,747	33,326
Sylhet ..... Total	58,190*	51	1,142	10,841	4,165	57	2,207	62	2,863	3,688	2,448	536	28,030	86,220
Burma Valley Act-I labourers (adults)	19,601	602	2,951	....	5,613	176	129	115	....	....	....	....	9,676	29,277
Burma Valley Non-Act labourers .. Adults ..	76,165	....	....	9,113	....	..	1,939	..	6,479	7,406	....	1,619	26,556	102,721
Burma Valley Non-Act labourers .. Children..	65,858	....	....	6,340	....	..	651	..	455	2,156	5,755	....	15,357	81,215
Burma Valley Total	161,624	602	2,951	15,453	5,613	176	2,719	115	6,934	9,562	5,755	1,619	51,589	213,213
Kámrúp ..... Act-I. labourers (adults)	479	5	281	....	9	..	22	2	....	....	....	....	319	798
Kámrúp ..... Non-Act labourers .. Adults ..	1,284	....	....	32	....	..	15	..	94	368	....	34	543	1,827
Kámrúp ..... Non-Act labourers .. Children..	1,025	....	....	191	....	..	....	..	....	159	83	....	433	1,458
Kámrúp ..... Total	2,788	5	281	223	9	..	37	2	94	527	83	34	1,295	4,083
Darrang .... Act-I. labourers (adults).....	14,604	1,132	2,643	...	3,064	90	35	163	....	....	....	....	7,187	21,791
Darrang .... Non-Act labourers.. Adults ..	11,893	....	....	356	....	..	46	..	2,023	3,879	....	135	6,237	18,130
Darrang .... Non-Act labourers.. Children..	10,321	....	....	2,036	....	..	26	..	....	756	898	....	3,713	14,034
Darrang .... Total....	36,818	1,132	2,643	2,389	3,064	90	107	163	2,023	4,635	898	135	17,137	53,955
Nowgong .... Act-I. labourers (adults)	2,227	496	929	....	50	31	100	3	....	....	....	....	1,615	3,842
Nowgong .... Non-Act labourers.. Adults ..	5,625	....	....	551	....	..	121	..	681	1,925	....	132	3,410	10,035
Nowgong .... Non-Act labourers.. Children...	4,644	....	....	741	....	..	53	..	....	143	376	....	1,313	5,957
Nowgong .... Total....	12,496†	496	929	1,292	50	31	280	3	681	2,068	376	132	6,338	19,734
Sibságar .... Act-I. labourers (adults)	30,225	2,882	4,328	....	7,494	177	512	95	....	....	....	....	15,488	45,713
Sibságar .... Non-Act labourers.. Adults ..	19,956	....	....	869	....	..	334	..	4,617	3,718	....	564	10,102	30,058
Sibságar .... Non-Act labourers.. Children...	29,887	....	....	4,378	....	..	309	..	....	769	2,418	....	7,774	37,661
Sibságar .... Total....	80,068	2,882	4,328	5,247	7,494	177	1,055	95	4,617	4,487	2,418	564	33,364	113,432
Lakhimpur .. Act-I. labourers (adults).....	21,175	4,315	4,145	....	1,588	100	424	146	....	....	....	...	10,718	31,893
Lakhimpur .. Non-Act labourers.. Adults ..	17,968	....	....	1,828	....	..	339	..	2,517	2,443	....	353	7,480	25,448
Lakhimpur .. Non-Act labourers.. Children...	20,419	....	....	4,427	....	..	271	..	....	189	1,787	....	6,674	27,093
Lakhimpur .. Total....	59,562	4,315	4,145	6,255	1,588	100	1,034	146	2,517	2,632	1,787	854	24,862	84,424
Brahmaputra Valley Act-I. labourers (adults).....	68,710	8,830	12,326	....	12,208	398	1,159	409	....	....	...	....	35,330	104,027
Brahmaputra Valley Non-Act labourers.. Adults ..	57,726	....	....	3,636	....	..	855	..	9,932	12,128	...	1,216	27,767	85,493
Brahmaputra Valley Non-Act labourers.. Children...	66,196	....	....	11,770	....	..	559	..	....	2,016	5,562	....	19,907	86,103
Brahmaputra Valley Total....	192,642	8,830	12,326	15,406	12,208	398	2,573	409	9,932	14,130	5,562	1,216	82,996	275,638
Total for the Province. Act I. labourers (adults).....	88,311	9,522	15,277	....	17,818	574	1,288	524	....	....	....	....	45,003	133,314
Total for the Province. Non-Act labourers.. Adults ..	138,901	....	....	12,749	....	..	2,704	..	16,411	19,529	....	2,835	54,818	193,219
Total for the Province. Non-Act labourers.. Children...	132,054	....	....	18,110	....	..	1,210	..	455	4,172	11,317	....	35,264	167,318
Total for the Province. Total....	359,266	9,522	15,277	30,859	17,818	574	5,202	524	16,866	23,701	11,317	2,835	134,585	493,851

* SYLHET.—The difference of 62 labourers between this entry and that shown in column 31 of the statement at the end of the report for 1868 is due to some managers having

NOWGONG.—The difference of 14 labourers between this entry and that in column 31 of the statement at the end of the report for 1868, is due to the omission by two mana

the Tea-gardens in the Province of Assam during the year 1889.

16	17	18		19		20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33		34
Deductions made during the year 1889.																	Number remaining at the end of the year 1889.	Strength on 1st July 1889.	Annual strength		
Transferred to other gardens.	Left the garden with permission.	Deaths.		Desertions.		By transfer from minors to adults.	Number giving agreements under Section 111.	Number giving agreements under Section 112.	Cancelment under Sections 111, 140, or 177.	Cancelment for permanent unfitness under Section 122.	Cancelled under Section 129.	Suspended under Section 130.	Efflux of time, Section 141.	Redemption, Section 142.	Number dissolved by mutual consent.	Total deducted.			First half-year	Second half-year.	Death-rate per mille.
		First half-year.	Second half-year.	First half-year.	Second half-year.																
67	....	388	420	333	407	....	....	....	24	42	3	..	3,270	8	4	4,986	10,045	11,096	10,784	10,569	75·0
367	4,452	1,010	801	972	886	....	1,123	76	....	....	..	..	....	..	..	9,609	44,498	41,459	3 171	41,677	41 3
58	927	696	715	120	371	1,083	....	..	....	....	..	..	....	..	..	3,970	42,010	43,594	42,538	40,668	32·7
512	5,379	2,094	1,939	1,425	1,664	1,083	1,123	76	24	42	3	..	3,270	8	4	18,646	98,357	99,149	96,141	98 903	41·3
77	....	385	301	449	375	....	....	....	3	68	..	..	3,111	2	21	4,792	9 456	10 756	9,542	9 9 5	70 6
432	3,969	654	668	1,016	1,364	....	1,650	24	....	....	..	..	....	..	..	9,767	38,809	39,414	37 [illegible]	39,111	34·6
125	1,141	413	453	333	427	536	....	....	....	....	..	..	....	..	..	3,428	29,588	29,340	28,860	28,529	30·6
634	5,110	1,452	1,422	1,798	2,156	536	1,650	24	3	68	..	..	3,111	2	21	17,987	78,223	79,029	73,560	78,576	37 8
164	....	773	721	782	782	...	....	....	27	110	3	..	6,381	10	25	9,776	19,1 9	21,181	20,626	20,475	72 8
799	8,421	1,664	1,472	1,928	2,240	....	2,773	100	....	....	..	..	....	..	..	19,447	83,254	85,378	80,269	83,918	38 2
183	2,068	1,109	1,168	453	798	1,619	....	....	....	....	..	..	....	..	..	7,398	74,817	72,504	69,206	73,185	31 9
1,146	10,489	3,546	3,361	3 223	3,820	1,619	2,773	100	27	110	3	..	6,381	10	25	36,623	176,580	178,378	170,001	177,470	39 7
6	....	27	12	12	11	....	....	....	....	....	..	..	128	..	1	197	601	597	538	590	70·2
...	282	42	42	29	28	....	9	....	....	....	..	..	....	..	..	382	1,455	1,509	1,401	1,482	51 2
....	190	27	32	21	8	34	....	....	....	....	..	..	....	..	..	312	1,216	1,294	1,129	1,226	50·0
6	352	96	86	62	47	34	....	....	....	....	..	..	128	..	1	891	3,272	3,400	3,069	3,300	47 2
95	....	320	313	207	328	....	....	....	....	49	..	..	3,553	1	54	5,320	16,471	17,464	16 [illegible]34	16,967	62·6
46	4,594	181	125	960	117	....	1,331	38	....	....	..	..	....	..	..	6,693	11 438	12,183	12, 38	11,810	25 6
26	758	195	202	61	51	133	....	....	....	....	..	..	....	..	..	1,426	12,008	12,313	11,017	12,460	33·4
167	5,352	696	640	528	496	133	1,331	38	....	49	..	..	3,553	1	54	13,488	40,917	41,960	39,[illegible]48	41,218	[illegible]1
106	....	69	109	75	77	....	...	....	....	24	..	..	603	..	26	1,094	3,748	2,783	2,505	2,765	66 9
94	2,990	108	124	195	134	....	50	31	....	....	..	..	....	..	..	3,726	6,309	7,031	6,728	6,870	34 5
49	466	95	91	38	18	132	....	....	....	....	..	..	....	..	..	889	4,968	5,083	4,788	5,000	38 0
249	3,456	272	324	308	229	132	50	31	....	24	..	..	603	..	26	5,709	14 025	14,847	14,121	14,635	41·7
512	....	817	1,019	371	478	....	....	....	3	105	..	..	9,096	6	81	12,101	33,222	34,483	32,354	33 857	55·3
141	5,135	387	388	243	447	....	2,585	59	....	....	..	..	....	..	..	9 310	20,748	23 105	21,550	21 9 6	44 2
197	1,570	489	614	192	137	561	....	....	....	....	..	..	....	..	..	3,760	35,586	33,117	31,902	33,407	5· 1
850	6,705	1,693	1,921	814	1,062	561	2,585	59	3	105	..	..	9,096	6	81	25,561	87,868	91,365	85,716	89,816	41·9
406	....	670	972	409	660	....	....	....	....	224	..	..	2,605	2	45	7,752	24,741	25,489	23,332	25,715	66·4
306	3,078	272	345	253	303	....	770	18	....	....	..	..	....	..	..	6 240	19,198	21,114	19,541	20,156	31·0
157	1,248	373	495	90	110	363	....	....	....	....	..	..	....	..	..	2,826	24,267	24,205	22,312	23,236	37·1
869	5,221	1,295	1,812	842	1,073	363	770	18	....	224	..	..	3,656	2	45	16,278	68,206	70,808	65,185	69,007	40·5
1,124	....	2,062	2,005	1,167	1,554	....	....	....	3	402	..	..	17,080	9	207	28,344	77,788	80,816	74,763	79,260	60 9
587	16 924	590	904	975	1,029	....	4,695	146	....	....	..	..	....	..	..	26 .50	59,118	65,002	61,869	62,975	32·1
429	4,162	1,179	1,434	402	324	1,216	....	....	....	....	..	..	....	..	..	9,146	70,057	76,502	71,349	76,729	35·2
2,140	21,086	4,252	5,053	2,544	2,907	1,216	4,695	146	3	402	..	..	17,080	9	207	61,730	213,88[illegible]	222,320	207,481	218,104	43·6
1,288	....	2,886	3,346	1,049	2,336	....	....	....	30	512	3	..	23,467	19	282	80,682	97,262	102,267	95,280	99,774	65 5
1,386	25,345	2,654	2,466	2,073	2,289	....	7,468	246	....	....	..	..	....	..	..	43 807	148,412	143,375	141 648	145,893	35 6
612	6,230	2,288	2,802	885	1,122	2,825	....	....	....	....	..	..	....	..	..	16,844	130,774	149,056	140,553	149,913	33 6
3,286	31,575	7,798	8,414	5,777	6,727	2,825	7,468	246	30	512	3	..	23,467	19	282	96 383	376,448	409,698	377,482	395,580	41 9

submitted revised returns for the half-year ending 31st December 1888 after the annual returns were despatched by the Deputy-Commissioner.
gers to show the men who were free labourers in the returns for the second half of 1888, whereas they had show them as being present at the beginning of the first half of 1889.